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Hamper containing 14 essential commodities

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** wearing a PPE suit visited the Corona patients ward in Coimbatore Medical College/ESI Hospital and enquired the health and requirements of the patients being treated there on 30.05.2021.

World Day against Child Labour-12.06.2021

'Educate children, eradicate child labour'

Message of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** on 'World Day against Child Labour'-11.06.2021 *(English Translation)*.

It is most important for every child born in this world to have the right to life, the right to security and the right to education. To snatch these rights from them is against natural justice and social justice. Keeping this in mind, every year June 12 is observed as the World Day against Child Labour for promoting, in the children's interests, awareness against the practice of child labour. This is the day to sow the seed of awareness to ensure that the childhood of children remains un-spoilt.

Our children are going to be the sculptors of tomorrow's new world. It is the duty of the people of Tamil Nadu to identify their skills, develop them, safeguard their rights and nurture them with care. It is the goal of the Government of Tamil Nadu to release children, who at a tender age have to bear the burden of work when they should be receiving the treasure of education, from this cruel atrocity of child labour, and safeguard their childhood and ensure their education.

To achieve this goal, this new Government is determined to speedily implement all constructive action-plans to free Tamil Nadu from child labour by abolishing its practice from all types of industries.

Our Government, by way of abolishing child labour, is implementing many welfare schemes by admitting the retrieved children in proper schools and providing them school uniforms, text-books, note-books, school bags, footwear, educational aids, nutritious noon meal, bus pass at no cost and a monthly stipend of Rs.500/- for the entire academic career to ex-child labour students prosecuting higher education now.

The State Government is very seriously implementing the law amended by the Union Government to ban appointment of not only children below 14 years of age, but also adolescents below 18 years of age, in hazardous industries.

To transform Tamil Nadu into a State that has no child labour, the Government, NGOs, representatives of local bodies, trade unions, owners of industrial establishments and the general public should extend their earnest cooperation.

We will abolish child labour; we will educate children and light up their lives.

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"The District Collectors must do their duty by exercising their powers in such a way that all people get all opportunities in education, employment and social positions."

- Thiru. M. K. Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** handing over a COVID-19 pandemic relief hamper containing 14 essential commodities to rice card holders, at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates distribution of gift hampers, second instalment of Rs.2,000

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021 distributed the second instalment of COVID-19 cash assistance of Rs.2,000 and a gift hamper containing 14 essential commodities to rice card holders, by handing over the cash assistance and the bag to 10 rice card holders as a mark of inauguration of the schemes.

In the poll manifesto for the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Elections 2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister had made the assurance that as people in the State had been hit by Corona, all rice card holders would be given Rs. 4,000 as relief on the Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's Birth Anniversary.

Based on the assurance, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution of the first instalment of Rs.2,000 to rice card holders at the Secretariat on 10.05.2021, totally costing Rs.4,196.38 crore, to reduce the burden of the people hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now on 03.06.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the distribution of the second instalment of Rs. 2,000 each to 2,09,81,900 rice card holders in the State, costing the exchequer Rs.4,196.38 crore.

To reduce the burden of people affected by the Corona virus, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on 28.05.2021 that a gift pack of essential commodities would be distributed to all rice card holders through ration shops in June.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated distribution of a gift hamper containing 1 kg of wheat flour, 1 kg of salt, 1 kg rava, half a kg sugar, half a kg urad dhal, 250 gm of tamarind, 250 gm Bengal gram, 100 gm each of mustard and cumin seeds and turmeric and chilli powder, 200 gm tea powder and a bathing soap and a detergent bar (14 essential articles), totally costing Rs.844.51 crore.

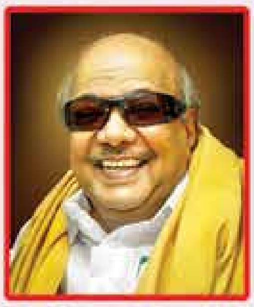
Archakas, Bhattacharyas, Pujaris without monthly salary given Rs. 4,000 and a hamper of provisions

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inaugurated at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021,distribution of monetary assistance of Rs.4,000, 10 kg of rice and 15 varieties of provisions to Archakas, Bhattacharyas, Pujaris and other employees of temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department who have no fixed monthly income.

In view of the abnormal situation prevailing in the State due to the lockdown imposed to control the Corona virus spread, temples in the State are closed for public darshan. Due to this, the life support of Archakas, Bhattacharyas, Pujaris and other employees working in temples under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department without fixed income, has been affected. They appealed to the Government to provide relief to them as they have no livelihood. The Hon'ble Chief Minister kindly considered their request and announced a cash relief of Rs. 4,000, 10 kg of rice and a gift pack containing 15 provisions to those temple employees who are working without monthly salary.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the scheme at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021 and as a token, handed over the incentive amount and provisions to 12 Archakas, Bhattacharyas and Pujaris serving in Thirumullaivoyal Arulmigu Pidari Ettiyamman Temple and Arulmigu Pidari Ponniyamman Temple; Park Town – Kandakottam Arulmigu Muthukumaraswamy Temple; Athipet - Arulmigu Krishnaswami Perumal Temple; Chennai - Arulmigu Chennamalleswarar Temple and Kesava Perumal Temple and Bairagimadam Arulmigu Bairagi Thiruvengadamudaiyar Venkatesa Perumal Temple.

Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's Birth Anniversary commemorated with six special announcements



Announcements made by the Government of Tamil Nadu on the occasion of the 97th Birth Anniversary of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar on 03.06.2021*(English Translation)*.

No other Chief Minister in the country has such a reputation like Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar who ruled the State for five terms and provided good governance. He implemented many welfare schemes and was a leader of the oppressed classes. He had in himself the qualities of Thanthai Periyar (untiring efforts), Perunthalaivar Kamarajar (unstinting service) and Perarignar Anna (large heartedness). He dedicated his entire life for the welfare of Tamils living all over the world and for the Tamil language. He utilized his political experience for uplifting the lives of people of the lower strata of the society.

1. A 500-bed high class Super Multi-Speciality Hospital at a cost of Rs. 250 crore in South Chennai

We all know that Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, throughout his life, thought only about the welfare of the Tamil people and implemented many welfare schemes for them. Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme for pregnant women, Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme for the poor and the free eye treatment scheme are all health-oriented schemes born through the vision of Kalaignar. Apart from these schemes, which are dedicated to the welfare of the people, Kalaignar donated his house in Gopalapuram for converting it into a free hospital for the benefit of the poor. To commemorate his memory, a high class super multi-speciality hospital with 500-beds, at a cost of Rs. 250 crore will be set up at King's Institute campus, Guindy in South Chennai.

2. Library in memory of Kalaignar in Madurai

Kalaignar had a passion for reading books throughout his life. His love for books resulted in setting up a state-of-the-art library at Kotturpuram in the name of Perarignar Anna in 2010 on the occasion of Anna's 102nd Birth Anniversary. The library, considered to be the biggest library in Asia, was inaugurated by Kalaignar. It serves as a beacon for students, educationists, research students, literary people

and students preparing for the competitive examinations and children from all stratas of society. To enable people from southern parts of the State to get a similar facility, a state-of-the-art library will be set up on a 2 lakh sq.ft. at a cost of Rs. 70 crore in Madurai with modern facilities in memory of Kalaignar.

3. Ilakkiya Mamani Awards

At present, Kalaimamani awards are given to those who excel in Iyal, Isai and Naadagam (literature, music and drama). In a similar manner, 'Ilakkkiya Mamani Awards' will be instituted to honour those who excel in Tamil writing. The awards will be given to 3 writers, who will be honoured with a citation and a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

4. Dream House

To encourage Tamil writers, a house will be given free to writers who are natives of Tamil Nadu and have won national awards like Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi award as well as those who have won State literary awards, in their native Districts or in a District of their choice.

5. Paddy storage godowns and drying floors in Tiruvarur District at a cost of Rs.30 crore.

With a view to increase paddy production in Tiruvarur District and to prevent damage to crops due to rains, additional storage facilities will be constructed for the benefit of farmers. The State Government, which protects the interest of farmers, will construct additional storage godowns in Tiruvarur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Muthupettai, Mannargudi, Kottur, Needamangalam, Nannilam, Kodavasal, Koradachery and Valangaiman in vacant places available in the regulated market complexes and suitable land identified by the District Collectors. These godowns with a capacity of 16,000 metric tonnes will be set up at a cost of Rs. 24.30 crore.

To prevent post-harvest losses of paddy and pulses due to lack of facilities for drying, 50 solar drier floors will be setup for the benefit of farmers in Tiruvarur District at a total cost of Rs.5 crore in 10 divisions, in Kottur and Valangaiman 2 recycling group solar dryers at a cost of Rs.60 lakh, 2 driers in Needamangalam and Mannargudi Divisions, at a cost of Rs.60 lakh. Totally 54 drier floors and dryers, at a total cost of 6.20 crore will be set up.

6. Free bus travel facility extended to Transgenders and Differently-abled persons in urban Government Transport Corporation buses.

For the benefit of women travellers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on the date of taking charge as the Hon'ble Chief Minister that women can travel free in urban Government Transport Corporation buses. In continuation of this, differently-abled persons and transgenders will also be permitted to travel free in the urban Government transport buses. This order will come into force immediately after the lockdown is lifted.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes welfare assistance to beneficiaries

Action under 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' gathers pace; 3,750 demands fully resolved

With action being taken on the petitions received by the Department of Chief Minister in Your Constituency, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021.

The new Department, 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' was created to solve within 100 days the grievances of people who had petitioned through the event 'Stalin in your constituency' during the Hon'ble Chief Minister's election campaign. Four lakh twenty thousand petitions were received; they were segregated District-wise and subject-wise and uploaded in the website created and maintained by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA).

In the first phase, 1,52,000 petitions were taken up for scrutiny, field inspection was undertaken on 57,845 and of them grievances in 3,750 were fully resolved. The rest of the 54,095 petitions are under various stages of examination for settlement.

Following are the details in respect of the 3,750 demands fully resolved:

1. Individual demands like pension and house site patta under the social security scheme – Revenue Department – 1,626 petitions

2. Work orders for construction of houses – Rural Development Department – 88

3. Work orders for raising basic infrastructure worth Rs.26 crore –Rural Development Department – 548;

4. Implementation of basic facilities connected with Greater Chennai Corporation – 236;

5. Implementation of water supply connected with Chennai Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board – 261

6. Implementation of electricity related matters on behalf of Tamil Nadu Electricity Generation and Distribution Corporation – 575

7. Those connected with Municipalities and other Departments and resolved through the concerned Departments – 416

Of the 3,750 petitioners whose grievances were fully resolved, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the benefits with regard to 12 petitions at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021:

(1) Tmt.Padmavathi, Serapanancheri and (2) Tmt.Kannika, Oragadam (Kancheepuram District) – house site pattas at no cost; (3) Thiru. M. Mukesh of Dharmapuri District – education loan of Rupees One lakh; (4) Thiru. R. Govindaraj of Bargur, Krishnagiri District – sanctioning order for self-employment industrial loan of Rs.12 lakh with a subsidy component of Rs.2.50 lakh; (5) Thiru. Sudarsan of Gudiyatham Taluk, Vellore District and (6) Tmt. Palaniammal of Karimangalam, Dharmapuri District - Rs. 2.10 lakh each for a green house; (7)Thiru. Gandhiappan and the general public of Vanur Panchayat Union, Villupuram District – orders for sinking an open well at an estimate of Rs.12 lakh and for 3 more public works worth Rs.41.50 lakh; (8) administrative sanction for Rs.47.90 lakh for laying a road on the request of the people of Walajabad Panchayat Union, Kancheepuram District; (9) administrative sanction for Rs.12.25 lakh on the request of Thiru. Munikrishnappa of Sembarasanapalli Panchayat, Krishnagiri District for setting up a community well; (10) Thiru. Manohar of Thadagam Panchayat, Villupuram District - administrative sanction order for Rs.20.12 lakh for setting up a drainage canal; (11) Thiru. Pushpanathan, Thiruthuraipoondi Taluk, Tiruvarur District – administrative sanction order for Rs.7.80 lakh for laying a black-topped road and (12) Thiru. Dinesh, Kaniyambadi Taluk, Vellore District – administrative sanction for Rs.22.64 lakh for setting up an overhead tank with a capacity of 60,000 litres at Kondasamudram Village.

Hon'ble Chief Minister initiates action on petitions received during campaign; redressal takes off

Within 10 days of the creation of the Department 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency', redressal work kicks off; Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** distributes benefits to petitioners on 18.05.2021 *(English Translation).*

Action was taken on the petitions brought under the Department 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' and Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed welfare assistance to the beneficiaries on 18.05.2021.

A new Department - 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' - was created to redress within 100 days the grievances of people who petitioned through the event 'Stalin in Your Constituency' during the election campaign by the Hon'ble Chief Minister and all the petitions

received were handed over on 09.05.2021 to the special officer appointed for this purpose.

About four lakh petitions were received through 72 wooden boxes and 275 cardboard boxes placed in the Districts during the campaign. The petitions are classified District-wise and subject-wise and are uploaded in the website through TNeGA. So far, about 70,000 petitions have been registered.

After uploading the petitions, each one is provided with a separate ID number and an SMS message is sent to the petitioner with the ID number. Field inspection is conducted over every petition found eligible after verifying the veracity of the details therein and District officials undertake all steps for providing immediate redress.

So far, action has been taken wholly on 549 petitions received from the 6 Districts of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Ranipet, Vellore, Tiruvarur and Theni. To mark the kick-starting of this scheme, Hon'ble Chief Minister invited 10 beneficiaries and distributed the welfare assistance on 18.05.2021. The beneficiaries and the benefits they got are: Tmt. Rani, Adambakkam – old-age pension; Tmt. N. Nithya, St.Thomas Mount – widow pension; Thiru. U. Sathyanarayanan, T.Nagar – pension for differently-abled persons; Selvi Thayaramma, Choolaimedu – pension for spinsters above 50 years of age; Tmt. Sumathi, Tondiarpet – sewing machine; Thiru. Udayakumar, Villivakkam – legal heir certificate, Tmt. Nandini, Thousand Lights – hearing aid (all in Chennai); Tmt. Jayanthi of Kondapalayam, Ranipet District – house patta at no cost; Thiru. Muthuraman, Vengupattu Panchayat, Ranipet District– assistance to construct a house and Thiru. Subash, Siruvalai, Ranipet District – assistance for installation of drip irrigation system.

Steps are being taken in respect of petitions of a public nature like road development and drinking water facility. In the first phase, sanction orders were issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 18.05.2021 to the under-mentioned four Departments in respect of action taken on four of the petitions of a public nature. The sanction orders pertain to:-

Construction of an Anganwadi building at Azhinjivakkam Village Panchayat at a cost of Rs.10.01 lakh on the request made by Thiru. M. Munusamy of Thiruvallur District; construction of a check dam across Chitteri canal at Amur Panchayat at a cost of Rs.4.6 lakh on a request from Thiru. Murugan of Thiruvallur District, laying of a cement road at Asanallikuppam Village at a cost of Rs.1.89 lakh on a request from Thiru. Gunasekaran of Ranipet District and setting up a drinking water tap at Pillaiyar Kovil street, Erukkamthotti Village at a cost of Rs.1.01 lakh on a request from Thiru. Bhuvanesh Kumar, Kalmelkuppam Panchayat, Ranipet District.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister instructed Department officials to ensure quick action like this on all petitions received under this scheme after due examination.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reviews Grand Anaicut restoration works, dredging in delta Districts

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** inspected and reviewed the ongoing restoration works at Grand Anaicut and the dredging works taken up in the Districts of Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli on 11.06.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin inspected and reviewed on 11.06.2021 the restoration works taken up at the Grand Anaicut, Thanjavur District, at a cost of Rs. 1,036 crore in the first phase, under the Water Resources Department's scheme for the expansion, renewal and restoration of water resource structures. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also presided over a review meeting on the special dredging works undertaken in the Cauvery delta Districts.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has ordered speedy implementation on a war footing of dredging and streamlining of water bodies in the delta irrigation areas so that the water released from Mettur dam for delta irrigation reaches the tail-end areas without wastage or interruption.

Accordingly, 647 works to a length of 4,061.44 kms in the 9 Districts of Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Ariyalur, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore and Pudukkottai are being carried out at a cost of Rs.65.10 crore after holding consultations with the representatives of agriculture associations.

To ensure adherence to time and quality, special supervisors have been appointed in all the nine Districts. Farmers' teams have been created in connection with these works, their suggestions are received, all details are documented and displayed in public notice boards showing the transparency in the execution of the works.

In the delta Districts, farmers are engaged in 'kuruvai' cultivation. To help the farmers, enough stocks of seeds, insecticides and fertilizers have been stored and are being distributed. The Hon'ble Chief Minister undertook field inspection in the Districts of Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli for inspecting and reviewing the special dredging works undertaken in Cauvery delta Districts. On account of these works, water resources in the delta Districts will improve. It is expected that Tamil Nadu will exceed this year's target of food production and set up a record.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister first inspected the desilting works being carried out at a cost of Rs.10 lakh in Mudalai Muthuvari drainage canal at Vallam (North) village, Thanjavur Taluk and the levelling of sand dunes in Vennaru at Palliagraharam village, Thanjavur Taluk, at a cost of Rs.17 lakh.

He then inspected the desilting works being carried out at a cost of Rs.29.70 lakh in the Pulivalam Manarpokki drainage canal in Kodiyalam Village, Srirangam Taluk, Tiruchirappalli District and reviewed.

Cancellation sought of bid process for Vadatheru in Cauvery Basin

D.O. Letter dated 13.06.2021 of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** regarding invitation for bids notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for extraction of Hydrocarbon in Vadatheru Block of Cauvery Basin.

The Cauvery Basin, as you are well aware, is the bedrock of Tamil Nadu's food security and agro based economy from time immemorial. This ecologically fragile zone supports the livelihood of millions of farmers and farm workers.

In this context, projects to extract hydrocarbons from the Cauvery basin have faced unanimous strident opposition from all stakeholders.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed hydrocarbon exploration and extraction projects in the Cauvery basin and neighboring Districts, given the pivotal role played by the region in the agrarian economy.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has invited bids for development of Oil and Gas fields at Vadatheru in Pudukkottai District in the Cauvery basin on 10.06.2021. The identified area for auction falls in the Cauvery basin and also in the Protected Agricultural Zone declared by the State Government, under the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020. This legislation prohibits any new exploration, drilling and extraction of Oil and Natural Gas and other

similar hydrocarbons from the Protected Agricultural Zone.

It is unfortunate that the sentiments of the people, the probable ecological impact and the legal enactments by Government of Tamil Nadu have not been taken into account by the relevant authorities. The calling of bids by Government of India has already ignited public agitation in Pudukkottai and neighboring Districts apprehending the adverse consequences of hydrocarbon extraction in this agrarian region.

My Government is of the firm view that no new hydrocarbon projects should be taken up in the Cauvery basin and neighboring Districts in the interest of protecting the livelihoods of the farmers and fragile agro-ecology of the Cauvery basin. Moreover, any such proposal for new extraction in the Protected Agricultural Zone is in violation of the Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, 2020.

In these circumstances, I urge you to immediately intervene and instruct the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to cancel the bid process for Vadatheru in Cauvery Basin. I also request you to instruct the Ministry to consult the State Government *ab initio* before bringing any area in Tamil Nadu for any auctions in future for hydrocarbon exploration and extraction. ■

News in Picture

97th Birth Anniversary of **Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar**

In connection with the 97th Birth Anniversary of **Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar**, a sapling was planted at his memorial in the Marina Beach, Chennai by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** on 03.06.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister orders intensification of measures to control COVID-19 infections

Intensive Corona virus control steps have been taken up by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin and a total lockdown all over Tamil Nadu has been declared for a fortnight from 4 a.m. 10.05.2021 to 4 a.m. 24.05.2021, to further step up virus prevention works.

In Salem District, various new restrictions have been enforced from 07.05.2021 to intensify the prevention works. From 07.05.2021 till date, 71,417 phlegm samples were taken, 8,768 persons were identified as Corona-affected and special treatment was given to them. Seven thousand four hundred and thirty-two of them were totally cured and sent back home.

Moreover, 1,583 beds with oxygen facility have been set up - 966 in Salem Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Medical College Hospital and 617 in Government Hospitals. In private hospitals, 2,896 beds with such facility are available. The bed strength in the Corona Special Treatment Centre is 2,770 and in the Government Primary Health Centres 600.

Monitoring teams with a total strength of 354 personnel have been set up in 177 areas all over Salem District to prevent the virus from spreading and to supervise the lockdown, private isolation in houses and the health of patients undergoing treatment in COVID special centres.

For villagers in rural areas affected by the pandemic, 38 COVID Care Centres have been set up – 26 in 20 Panchayat Unions in the District, 9 in the 4 Zones in the Municipal Corporation areas and 3 in Municipalities.

The Siddha Medical Department has set up a COVID Monitoring Centre with 100 beds at the Government Women Arts College Hostel, Salem-8 and it is functioning. The bed strength has been added by 100; treatment for patients was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 20.05.2021.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a 500-bed COVID Special Treatment Centre at a place with uninterrupted oxygen production. First of its sort, the Centre has an ICU, laboratory, pharmacy, capable specialist doctors, nurses, modern treatment equipment etc.

After a review, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that the centre be expanded with an equal bed strength with oxygen facility and up-gradation of the premier special treatment centre within 10 days.

Rs. 5,000 to 1,17,184 Police Personnel at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** issued orders sanctioning Rs.5,000 as incentive to 1,17,184 Police Personnel for field work during the Corona pandemic in the State.

The COVID-19 virus has caused extensive harm not only in India, including Tamil Nadu, but also throughout the world. During the first and second wave of the COVID virus, Police Personnel have carried out their duties without considering the threat to their lives. In recognition of their valuable services and to encourage their services, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs.5,000 each to 1,17,184 Police Personnel from Grade II Constable to Inspector, as incentive.

The incentive, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said, has been sanctioned to the Police Personnel who are in the forefront in the State Government's efforts to control the Corona virus infections.

Hon'ble Chief Minister writes to Hon'ble Union Minister for Defence on missing fishermen

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** writes to the Union Minister for Defence, **Thiru. Rajnath Singh**, urging the Union Minister to immediately take steps to trace the missing 12 fishermen, belonging to Kanniyakumari District and 4 fishermen of West Bengal *(English Translation)*.

Sixteen fishermen set out for fishing in a fishing power boat – Ameer Sha; Reg. No. IND-KL-07-MM-4989 – belonging to Thiru. Sabish of Kerala on 05.05.2021 from Beypore Fishing Harbour, near Kozhikode in Kerala. Of the 16 fishermen, 12 belong to Kanniyakumari District in Tamil Nadu and the rest to West Bengal. After Cyclone Tauktae crossed the coast, efforts to get in touch with the 16 fishermen failed and it has been announced that the fishermen are missing. In this connection, Coast Guard forces have been informed and they continue to search for the missing fishermen.

As no information has been received about the missing fishermen, the families and the fishing community are in great distress and tension. The Hon'ble Chief Minister in a letter to the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has urged him to take immediate steps to trace the missing fishermen.

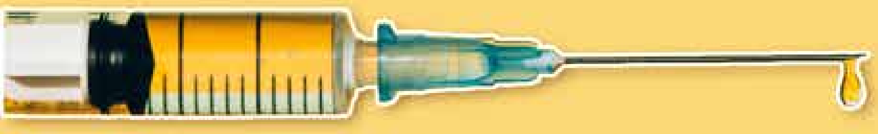
Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects additional beds at Codissia complex, Corona ward in college premises

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inspected and reviewed the additional bed facilities set up at Codissia Complex and Corona Special Treatment Ward at Kumaraguru Engineering College, in Coimbatore, on 20.05.2021.

In Coimbatore District those affected by Corona virus are given treatment in the Government Medical College Hospital, the ESI Medical College Hospital, District Headquarters Hospital, Pollachi, Mettupalayam Government Hospital and Madukkarai Government Hospital as well as in Karunya College, Bharathiar University, Codissia Complex, Anna University, Kovai, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Srinivasa Kalayana Mandapam, (Siddha Treatment Centre) and Vidyaa Vikas Matric Higher Secondary School, Karamadai, 67 private hospitals and 10 private lodges.

At present, 22,852 persons are undergoing treatment for Corona virus in Coimbatore District. Of these, 1,001 persons in Government Medical College Hospital, 810 patients in ESI Medical College Hospital, 120 in the Government Headquarters Hospital, Pollachi, 80 in Mettupalayam Government Hospital (Hindusthan Complex), 2,034 persons in 6 temporary special treatment centres, 4,672 patients in 67 private hospitals, and 589 in 16 private lodges are getting treatment. A total of 4,709 patients, who are getting treatment in Coimbatore District, belong to other Districts.

As the number of Corona virus patients is increasing day by day, more beds are being added to Special Treatment Centres in Codissia Complex, and in Kumaraguru Engineering Complex. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected the 820 beds added to the already existing 676 beds in Codissia Complex and the additional 360 beds in the Corona Special Treatment Centre in Kumaraguru Engineering College.



Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates vaccination for 18-44 age group at Tiruppur Apparel Park

The Corona vaccination work was started as per Government guidelines in Tiruppur District on 16.01.2021, for controlling Corona virus infections. In the first phase, 23,565 frontline workers and 16,106 health-care workers were inoculated. From 01.03.2021, this work was started for the 60 plus age group and for those aged 45 to 59 having co-morbidities. From 01.04.2021, administration of Corona vaccination started for all those above 45 years of age.

Following the Central Government’s decision that the State Governments themselves should execute the scheme for vaccination for the 18-44 age group, the Government of Tamil Nadu is making all efforts to get the State’s quota of 1.5 crore vaccine doses from the Union Government and procure additionally, 3.5 crore vaccine doses by floating global tenders. Since those of this age group are the backbone of our economy on account of their varied occupations, the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin has directed

that the high risk category among them and industrial workers should be brought in the first phase itself for vaccination.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated on 20.05.2021, vaccination for the 18-44 age group at no cost at the Netaji Apparel Park, Tiruppur District. He also distributed certificates for those who got vaccinated. Twelve thousand workers work in this Park and all those eligible will be vaccinated.

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** paid a personal visit to the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur on 06.06.2021, saw the COVID affected Asiatic Lions and enquired about the treatment given to them from doctors and high officials of the Forest Department.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates special COVID-19 treatment centre at Thoppur

Many new restrictions have been announced and implemented in Madurai District from 07.05.2021 to intensify Corona prevention measures. From 15.03.2021 till date, 3,63,599 persons have been tested, 30,521 found to be virus positive and as a result of the excellent treatment given, 18,564 of them have been completely cured.

On instructions from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, many steps were taken intensively in Madurai District for controlling the spread of the Corona epidemic; 1,101 beds with oxygen facility and 646 without such facility were set up in Government Hospitals including Madurai Government Rajaji Medical College Hospital; in private hospitals, the corresponding number of beds provided is 1,131 and 794. In the Corona special treatment centre, 2,620 beds have been set up.

At the Thoppur Government T.B. Hospital, Madurai District, 500 more beds with oxygen facility have been set up for Corona treatment. In the first phase, the COVID Special Treatment Centre is to have 200 beds and the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared it open on 21.05.2021. He instructed the District Administration to commence admissions to the hospital immediately and start appropriate treatment to the patients.

At the Madurai District Collectorate, Hon'ble Chief Minister received donations to the Chief Minister Public Relief Fund for Corona relief works. Thiru. Saravanakumar, Administrative Director, Tiruppur Eveready Spinning Mills presented a cheque for Rs. one crore, Thiru. M. Ram, Administrative Director, Paramount Textiles Mills (P) Ltd., a cheque for Rs.30 lakh, Dr. Sudhakar, a cheque for Rs.50 lakh on behalf of Sudha Hospital and Dr. Sathish Devadoss, a cheque for Rs.10 lakh on behalf of Devadoss Hospital.

Hon'ble Chief Minister calls for revival of lab to enable early production of COVID vaccine

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin inspected on 25.05.2021, the working of the HLL Biotech Vaccine Lab of the Central Government at Thirukazhukundram in Chengalpattu District.

During the review, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said that in view of the increasing demand for COVID vaccination in Tamil Nadu due to spike in Corona cases, all necessary steps should be taken to start the production of COVID vaccine doses in the laboratory at the earliest and gave the assurance that the Government of Tamil Nadu would extend all help in this regard.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also urged the Central Government to allot sufficient funds for the Biotech lab to make it operational and start production of COVID vaccine doses at the earliest.

Director of HLL Biotech Dr.Vijayan, Principal Secretary of Industries Department Thiru. N.Muruganandam I.A.S., Chengalpattu District Collector Thiru. John Louis I.A.S., and high Government officials participated.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens centres for Corona treatment in Tiruchirappalli District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin declared open on 21.05.2021 a 400-bed Corona treatment centre at the Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, attached to K.A.P. Viswanatham Government Medical College in Tiruchirappalli District, a 100-bed Corona special medical camp at Kalaiarangam Marriage Hall and a 320-bed Corona welfare centre at the National Institute of Technology, Thiruverumbur, Tiruchirappalli.

Many measures are being undertaken in Tiruchirappalli District to control the spread of the Corona epidemic. A bed-strength of 503 is available in Government Hospitals – 335 with oxygen supply facility at Tiruchirappalli Government medical college hospital and 168 with similar facility in other Government Hospitals. In the private hospitals 1,297 beds with oxygen facility are available. There are 1,661 beds in the Corona treatment centre and 290 in Government Primary Health Centres.

Monitoring teams have been set up in urban and rural areas and in all Taluks to prevent the Corona virus spread, supervise lockdown, oversee Corona-affected persons quarantined in their homes and the health of patients under treatment in Corona treatment centres.

To track Corona spread in Tiruchirappalli Municipal Corporation areas in advance, door to door examinations are conducted in 34 highly affected wards through 785 field workers, drawn from the nutritious meals scheme staff, to identify persons with low oxygen level (less than 95%) and fever measured through pulse oximeter and thermometer.

In the urban areas of Tiruchirappalli District, Corona treatment centres are functioning at Bishop Heber College complex (350 beds), Yatri Nivas at Thiruvarangam (530 beds), Sethurapatti Government Engineering College (600 beds) and at Nehru Arts college (150 beds).

Government Siddha doctors have set up a Corona treatment centre at the Kajamalai complex of Bharathidasan Distance Education University, with a bed strength of 160 for giving treatment entirely under Siddha system of medicine.

The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, attached to the K.A.P. Viswanatham

Government medical college, Tiruchirappalli District, has a bed facility for 914 patients. Additionally, a Corona treatment centre with 400 beds has been created. Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open this centre on 21.05.2021 and reviewed.

Also, he declared open a Corona special medical camp with 100 beds at the Kalaiarangam Marriage Hall, Tiruchirappalli; at the section where those in the 18-44 age group are vaccinated in the camp, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected the administration of vaccination on a priority basis to differently-abled persons.

In continuation of this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the newly created 320 bed Corona treatment centre set up in the National Institute of Technology complex in Thiruverumbur Taluk, Tiruchirappalli. He instructed the District administration to immediately admit virus-affected persons in this centre and provide appropriate treatment. He also inspected the Siddha medicines given for Corona treatment by the Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy Department at the N.I.T. complex, listened to the briefing on their effects and tasted a cup of medicinal tea prepared by the Department with the ingredients of 'kabasura kudineer' chooranam, tulasi, athimadhuram and panam kalkandu (palm candy).

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also received donations amounting to Rs.1.40 crore at the Tourist Bungalow, Tiruchirappalli for the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund for Corona relief works. The donors were: Thiru. P. Ponnuthurai, Thiru.G. Rajkumar and P. Anitha – cheque for Rupees one crore on behalf of Lion Dates; Thiru. Omar Iqbal, Thiru. H. Siddique and Thiru. Hussain Abdul Kareem – cheque for Rs.10 lakh on behalf of Ahmed Brothers Company; Thiru. P.L. Palaniappan, Thiru. P.L. Annamalai – cheque for Rs.10 lakh on behalf of P.L.A. Group Company; Thiru. P.L.A. Subramanian, Thiru. S.P.Annamalai –cheque for Rs.10 lakh on behalf of P.L.A. Group company and Thiru. S.Subramanian and Thiru. S. Saravanan – cheque for Rs.10 lakh on behalf of Dhandapani Cements.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens special camp to vaccinate differently-abled persons

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated on 22.05.2021, a special COVID-19 vaccination camp for differently-abled persons at the Ethiraj Marriage Hall on T.T.K.Road in Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin has issued orders for special vaccination camps in different areas under the Greater Chennai Corporation limits to vaccinate differently-abled persons in the Corporation.

Based on the orders, a special vaccination camp was organized for differently-abled persons at the Ethiraj Kalyana Mahal on the T.T.K.Road in the Teynampet Division and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. As

a mark of inauguration of the camp, 26 persons were vaccinated.

To give priority to differently-abled persons in all Covid Vaccination Camps in Chennai, special arrangements have been made so that the differently-abled do not wait in normal queue but get vaccinated. In addition, special vaccination camps are arranged for the differently-abled persons in different parts of the Greater Chennai Corporation.

Any differently-abled person, who wants to get vaccination may register with 18004250111 or through video call number 97007 99993. Those who register through these numbers will be informed about the date, time and place of the special vaccination camp. Special camps will be organized in places near the residences of registered differently-abled persons.

On behalf of the Department of Welfare of the Differently-abled, special arrangements are made for transporting the differently-abled persons from their homes to the nearest vaccination centres and back. The differently-abled persons can register their names with any one of the two help numbers. A two-member team comprising a medical assistant and a nurse will check the genuineness of the registration through field visit. Based on the feedback, a temporary special camp will be set up near their homes and vaccination will be administered as per rules.

Special arrangements for vaccination of the differently-abled

The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued orders to make the following special arrangements for administering vaccination to differently-abled persons.

In all vaccination centres a special wing should be formed on priority basis for administering vaccination to differently-abled persons.

In all vaccination centres, there should be a separate queue for differently-abled persons.

Ramps should be provided in all vaccination centres for trouble-free movement of differently-abled persons.

Based on necessity, special vaccination centres could be set up in co-ordination with the Welfare Department for the Differently-abled persons.

Free bus rides that open new worlds of opportunity to women

Sangeetha would spend nearly Rs.100/- for bus travel everyday to reach her nursing college. She had applied for a bus pass last year but was denied one. Her parents who are members of the Irula tribe would set aside Rs.100/- every day from their meagre salary to ensure the education of their daughter who is a first generation graduate. However, this changed for the better when Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin announced free bus travel for women.

The nursing student's parents had been rescued from bonded labour at a brick kiln in 2009 and the family had settled in Veeranamur village near Tindivanam. Selvi C. Sangeetha is the first person from her settlement of 25 Irula families to clear the class XII board exam and pursue a nursing degree at Mundiyambakkam Government Medical College.

The 19-year-old had applied for a free bus pass stating her family background to the District Transport Authority in 2020. But she was denied one as the Transport Department said, "There is no provision."

"I can't express how happy I am because of the Scheme. Last year, I was struggling to get a free bus pass which was denied to me over and over again. Now, every girl like me has to wait for nobody. We have got our own freedom to go to college without having to make our families suffer over bus fare expenses when there is already poverty starving us. I can be a guilt-free first-generation graduate now; my father will save my bus fare for the family's expense," Sangeetha said.

Sangeetha's parents work multiple jobs to make ends meet including agricultural labour, MNREGA work, and other daily wage labour work that they find in the village. "There were days when we starved as the money we earned had to be spent for her bus fare. But we never compromised on it because her education came even before meals to us," said Chinnasamy, Sangeetha's father.

The Scheme has given a new freedom to the family that it had been denied before. The elated family is now making plans to explore ahead. "A scheme that allows my daughters and my wife to go wherever they want and win the world is beyond explanation to me. That Rs.100/- can now go towards buying notebooks or stationery required for my children. We thank Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K. Stalin from the bottom of our hearts for implementing a life-changing Scheme that is touching our lives," Chinnaswamy added.

(From - The New Indian Express)

Hon'ble Chief Minister hikes special incentives to journalists, doubles amount for death in harness

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin has issued orders sanctioning Rs.5,000 as special incentive to registered print and visual media journalists as Corona relief and also increased the death relief to Rs.10 lakh to those journalists who died due to Corona virus.

Journalists are playing the important role of taking important news and information to people and creating awareness, despite hurdles during the pandemic.

They are acting as a bridge between the Government and the people. With a view to encouraging them, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has ordered increase in special incentive of all registered journalists and photographers/ videographers working with print, television and magazines across all Districts (with at least one of the following registrations with the Government, like Government registration card/ registration cards issued by the District Collector/ free bus pass).

During the previous regime, incentive amount given to journalists was Rs.3,000, which has now been increased to Rs.5,000 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister after favourably considering the demands submitted by the journalists.

Similarly, during the previous rule, a Government order was issued that if accredited print and visual media journalists died due to Corona, the families of the deceased journalists were sanctioned Rs.5 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has also increased the relief amount to Rs.10 lakh after favourably considering the demands of the journalists.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also requested the journalists from print and television media to observe the safety standards during the pandemic while performing their professional duties.

Goals set in meeting with District Collectors, Superintendents of Police

Hon'ble Chief Minister calls for exemplary efforts to speedily contain Corona virus

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the video conference meeting of District Collectors and Superintendents of Police *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare, Government officers inclusive of Chief Secretary, District Collectors, District Superintendents of Police, Health Care and Frontline Workers –

At the outset I pay my respects to all of you.

The new Government took over office on May 7. As this is the first occasion to meet you all together, I convey my respects and

thanks to all the District Collectors and District Superintendents of Police.

Our Government's first goal is that Tamil Nadu should be in the forefront in all sectors. For that, the major task of conveying to people all the schemes chosen and implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu, has been entrusted to the District Collectors. I request you all to execute this task without slackness and with new enthusiasm and energy.

I wanted to invite the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to Chennai after the formation of the Government and to hold a consultative meeting. But as it is a Corona pandemic period, it is not possible to hold the meeting at the Secretariat.

Still, I hope such a meeting will be held shortly.

I wish to state that this meeting is in connection with the total lockdown to be implemented from tomorrow in Tamil Nadu.

First, I congratulate you all for your excellent work in your Districts during this pandemic period in controlling the virus and in providing relief measures in co-ordination with health, local administration and other Departments.

Corona cash relief has been announced. District Collectors should first ensure that relief fully reaches all the people.

- You know, a total lockdown is to come into effect in our State from tomorrow. In this situation, you should take effective steps for making available vegetables, fruits, milk, drinking water and the like to meet the needs of the people.
- Ensure availability of required quality food, milk and drinking water to inpatients in hospitals.
- Regular supply of milk and drinking water in all places should be monitored.
- Arrangements for street sale of vegetables and fruits in vehicles/push carts should be monitored with officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Local Administration.
- Most importantly, you should intensify measures like visiting houses and conducting camps to identify persons with symptoms and increasing the testing, through the Departments of Health and Local Administration, in this lockdown period.
- There should be no transport problem for patients and persons with symptoms to reach Government/private hospitals.
- You should continue without any slackening, activities to take forward the vaccination works.
- I request you to tirelessly continue the task of creating awareness in respect of precautionary measures to be taken to prevent the virus spread among people.
- Ensure that lockdown rules are fully followed. At the same time, ensure that permitted works like the movement

of agricultural inputs and produce, are carried out without any hassle

- You can hold consultation meetings with MPs and MLAs of your District, obtain their views and execute control and relief works in co-ordination with them.
- You should act with the sole aim of reducing the percentage of infections in your District and continuously monitor the sufficient availability and proper usage of oxygen and life-saving drugs in all hospitals.
- Also, many voluntary service organizations and private establishments express their desire in these times to work jointly with the Government. You should pay special attention to co-ordinating their works at the District level and help people to benefit from their services. You can appoint a special officer for this purpose at the District level.
- I request you to act keeping in mind that we are all responsible for the lives of Tamil Nadu people.

I have great faith that we will succeed when the District Administration takes up the virus infection prevention works jointly with people's representatives, voluntary service organizations and the general public.

This is a very, very important social task. To control the Corona spread – to prevent it from spreading further – the chain of transmission has to be broken. Without breaking this chain that spreads from one person to another, the Corona virus cannot be controlled. Total lockdown is precisely for that reason. District Collectors should impress upon the people that this lockdown has been implemented for creating a safe society.

We have lost precious lives!

Tamil Nadu is simultaneously facing two great problems; a medical problem on the one side and on the other the financial problem of a funds crunch. So, we should put a full stop to this Corona infection as speedily as possible.

I request you to fully use your accumulated experience, intelligence, energy and skill in the execution of the Corona prevention works.

The world has seen innumerable pandemics and disasters and has emerged out of them. When a society is affected, a light will flash out of the efforts of some individual somewhere showing the way out of the difficult situation. I see you as that light.

I request you to put in efforts that you proudly claim: "Corona was totally eradicated in my period due to my efforts; I created a situation where there is no Corona". I am confident you can do that.

I have great confidence that you alone can do that. With these words, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off oxygen cylinders to the Districts

SIPCOT has taken various steps, on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, to procure enough oxygen equipment for managing the prevailing shortage in the State brought about by the second wave of Corona infection.

It is importing from Singapore, Middle East countries and Dubai, 1,915 oxygen cylinders, 2,380 oxygen regulators, 3,250 medical oxygen flow meters, 5,000 oxygen concentrators and 800 filled cylinders, all costing Rs.40.71 crore. It has also identified and procured oxygen related equipment worth Rs.4.33 crore and their supply for medical treatment has helped in the conversion of 1,000 non-oxygen beds in Government Hospitals in Chennai into beds with oxygen facility.

SIPCOT further collected 2,000 oxygen cylinders from industries situated near its industrial parks and together with the 1,400 oxygen cylinders and regulators it has imported from Singapore, distributed 3,400 cylinders to the Districts as follows: Chennai District (1,010), Thoothukudi (250), Sivagangai (230), Villupuram (175), Thiruvallur (130), Vellore (100), Krishnagiri (100), Thanjavur (100), Tiruvannamalai (100), Cuddalore (100), Tirupattur (95), Karur (75), Dharmapuri (75), the Nilgiris (75), Namakkal (75), Nagapattinam (75), Tiruvarur (75), Theni (75), Dindigul (75), Kanniyakumari (75), Ramanathapuram (75), Virudhunagar (75), Kallakurichi (75), Chengalpattu (60) and Ranipet (50).

By way of joint action with the Government of Tamil Nadu in managing this critical (second wave) situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) placed orders for the import of 1,000 oxygen cylinders from Singapore. Out of this, 750 cylinders have landed. The rest are expected to arrive in a day or two.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off at the Secretariat on 28.05.2021, the distribution through vehicles, of these 750 oxygen cylinders imported by the CII in the first phase, to 8 Districts as follows: Salem (125), Coimbatore (100), Erode (100), Thiruvallur (100), Kancheepuram (100), Vellore (75), Krishnagiri (75) and Tiruppur (75).

Hon'ble Chief Minister motivates Collectors of six Districts to contain Corona virus incidence

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at a video conferencing meeting with Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Erode District Collectors on Corona prevention and relief measures on 27.05.2021*(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Ministers, Respected Chief Secretary to Government, Department Secretaries, District Collectors, Government officials…

At the outset, I convey my respects to all of you.

The impact of Corona spread has been controlled to some extent at the State level, in Chennai city and surrounding Districts due to the steps taken by this Government on a war footing in the last two weeks and due to the implementation of total lockdown.

Still, a District-wise analysis has revealed that the virus impact has not been sufficiently controlled in the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Erode. Hence, I have convened this review meeting to seek your views and suggestions for taking steps immediately to control the virus infections in these Districts and reduce the number of mortalities.

These six Districts, taken up for review on 27.05.2021, have good medical infrastructure both at the Government and private levels. District Collectors should ensure the availability of beds for all those needy patients immediately by utilizing this infrastructure.

Though there is a good increase of the number of RT-PCR tests to detect the virus infection in these Districts, all the virus-affected

persons should be identified in the areas where its spread is more, through monitoring and conducting enough tests and isolating them.

As for vaccination, Coimbatore and Salem Districts are better off. In the remaining 4 Districts, vaccine doses should be immediately made available to the 18-44 age group people in a greater measure.

Taking into account that the infection spread is more in villages in this second wave of Corona, the infection should be prevented from spreading to other areas from containment zones. I seek the views of District Collectors on the steps to be taken in this regard and about the assistance needed from the Government level.

Keeping in mind that it is imperative to succeed in the steps we undertake in these six Districts for our State to control the impact of this second wave of Corona, I strongly urge the District Collectors to take all efforts in the next couple of weeks with particular focus. ■

Letter to Union Health Minister on vaccine production in State

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin has written a letter to Union Minister for Health urging the Central Government to start the production in the Integrated vaccine complex in Chengalpattu District to meet the increasing demand for the COVID vaccine in Tamil Nadu due to non-receipt of adequate vaccine to Tamil Nadu from the Central Government and the increasing demand for the vaccine among the people due to awareness created by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. ■

'Government to strive for administrative, official language status to Eighth Schedule languages'

The DMK Government will strive to make all languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, including Tamil, as the Union Government's administrative and official languages: Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** *(English Translation).*

The greatest achievement of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, who involved himself in various agitations for protecting the Tamil language right from the age of 14, was getting classical language status for Tamil. For over 100 years, several Tamil scholars starting from Parithimar Kalaignar had demanded classical language status for the Tamil language and it was Kalaignar who got the status for the language during the UPA regime. Chairperson of the UPA Sonia Gandhi and the then Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh accepted the genuine demand of Muthamizh Arignar and announced on 06.06.2004 that classical language status would be given to the Tamil language. The Government Order in this regard was issued on 12.10.2004.

Tamil is the oldest language and is considered to be the mother of the Dravidian language family. The language has rich literary and grammatical treasures, but with all its great antiquity, it is also an ever-evolving modern language that has grown from the times of stone inscriptions to this day of computers. Classical Language status is the fitting honour conferred on this language by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar.

The DMK Government will strive hard to bring fame to the language throughout the world and continue to work hard to include all languages, including Tamil in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as administrative and official languages of the Union Government.

Hon'ble Chief Minister flags off fleet of vehicles carrying much needed oxygen to the Districts

The second wave of COVID-19 has created a great shortage of oxygen and related equipment in the State. In view of their critical and essential need, the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT), on the orders of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin took steps to procure sufficient oxygen equipment for managing this critical situation of Corona spread and helping the Health Department and local bodies.

In compliance with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's orders and with a view to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, SIPCOT issued orders for import of equipment worth Rs.40.71 crore from Singapore, the Middle East countries and Dubai. These include 1,915 oxygen cylinders, 2,380 oxygen regulators, 3,250 medical oxygen flow meters, 5,000 oxygen concentrators and 800 oxygen filled cylinders. So far, 515 oxygen cylinders, 1,780 oxygen regulators and 250 medical oxygen flow meters have been imported. Steps have been taken to import the rest of the equipment speedily.

From local suppliers, SIPCOT procured flow meters with humidifiers, regulators, copper pipes, outlets, manifolds etc., worth Rs.4.33 crore and handed them over to the Public Works Department for fixing medical

appliances needed in its works. This has enabled conversion of 1,000 beds in Government Hospitals in Chennai into beds with oxygen facility

SIPCOT also collected 2,000 empty oxygen cylinders from industrial units located near its industrial parks, filled up oxygen and supplied them, as per need, through its Gummidipoondi and Thoothukudi offices – 1010 for Chennai District, 130 for Sivagangai District, 100 for Villupuram, 20 for Tirupattur, 100 for Vellore, 250 for Thoothukudi, 130 for Thiruvallur, 100 for Krishnagiri, 100 for Thanjavur and 60 for Chengalpattu for Corona treatment in hospitals.

So far, 1,400 oxygen cylinders and regulators have arrived in Chennai from Singapore via Visakhapatnam.

Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off, at an event held at Secretariat on 26.05.2021, vehicles transporting these cylinders to various Districts. The cylinders and regulators have been distributed as follows: 75 each to the Districts of Karur, Dharmapuri, The Nilgiris, Namakkal, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Theni, Dindigul, Kanniyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Tirupattur, Kallakurichi and Villupuram, 50 for Theni and 100 each for Sivagangai, Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore. ◆

News in Picture

Hon'ble Prime Minister meeting with Hon'ble Chief Ministers of various States on Corona prevention activities in the country

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** conducted a review meeting with Hon'ble Chief Ministers of various States on steps being taken to control the Corona Virus in their respective States. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare, Thiru. Ma.Subramanian, Chief Secretary and other high Government officials participated in the review meeting.

Hon'ble Chief Minister interacts with beneficiaries over phone and enquires about benefits received

A new Department – 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency'–has been created to resolve within 100 days the grievances of petitioners through the event 'Stalin in Your Constituency' during the Hon'ble Chief Minister's election campaign.

This Department has so far received about 4 lakh petitions. All these petitions are separated District-wise and subject-wise and are uploaded in the website maintained by Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA). So far, 2.7 lakh petitions have been uploaded. Each petition is given a separate identity number after the upload and an SMS is sent to the petitioner with the ID number. Petitions that gained eligibility on the basis of details provided therein and the nature of the grievance, are scrutinized and forwarded to District Officials for immediate disposal.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin visited the office of the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Commissioner in Chennai and reviewed in detail how the petitions received from the Department of 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' are uploaded and forwarded to the Districts and the steps taken on them. He enquired about the number of petitions received Department-wise and the action taken/to be taken on them. He interacted over phone with persons who benefited under this Department in Theni, Ranipet, Vellore and Chennai. He enquired about the benefits they received due to the action taken on their petitions. He also advised every beneficiary to wear a mask without fail for stopping the Corona virus spread.

Task force at District-level to identify and provide assistance to children orphaned by Corona virus

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin held consultations with high officials at the Secretariat on 29.05.2021 on the steps to be taken by the Government to protect the interests of children orphaned by the Corona pandemic.

The Government has already set up, at the District level, a task force headed by the District Collector to identify and provide needed assistance to children whose parents lost their lives to Corona. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, in this situation, directed the officials to provide the following relief assistance for protecting the orphaned children:

• A fixed deposit of Rs.5 lakh is to be created in the name of the child that has lost both its parents due to Corona infection, to be returned with interest when the child completes 18 years of age.

• Orphaned children will get priority in accommodation in Government homes and hostels.

• Their education up to undergraduate level will be borne by the Government – all expenditure inclusive of education and hostel fees.

• For children who have lost one parent to Corona, an immediate cash relief of Rs.3 lakh will be given to the surviving parent – father/ mother.

• A monthly maintenance assistance of Rs.3,000 will be provided for children growing up under the care of a relative/guardian till the completion of 18 years of age.

• Children who have already lost one of the parents and now, the other also to Corona, are also eligible and a fixed deposit of Rs.5 lakh will be created in their names.

• A special committee will be set up in every District to monitor the assistance given to every child and its education and development.

• All Government welfare assistance will be given to these children and to the single parent with the child, on a priority basis.

A guidance committee will be set up to bring out the procedures to be followed for providing the above stated relief assistance child specific. The committee will be headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department with Government officials including the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, personnel of NGO/ Institutions as members.

Hon'ble Chief Minister allots Rs. 25 crore for purchase of drugs to treat Mucormycosis

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin has issued an order allotting Rs.25 crore from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund, for purchasing life-saving drugs including Amphotericin, required for treatment of Mucormycosis.

Till 07.06.2021, Rs.280.20 crore had been received as donation for the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund following the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin's appeal for donations for the treatment of Corona-infected patients in the State.

As assured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that funds donated for the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund would be utilized only for Corona relief measures, in the first phase, Rs.50 crore was allotted for purchase of life-saving drugs like Remdesivir for Government Hospitals and for purchasing containers for transporting liquid oxygen from other States through rail. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has already issued orders for release of Rs.50 crore in the second phase for purchasing RT PCR Test kits, taking into consideration that more than 16 lakh blood samples are being tested every day for Corona virus.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued an order for release of Rs.41.40 crore for purchase of oxygen cylinders, oxygen derivatives and other medical equipment from Singapore through SIPCOT.

Now, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has released Rs.25 crore from the Chief Minister's General Relief Fund for the purchase of Amphotericin and other life-saving drugs for treatment of Mucormycosis.

Hon'ble Chief Minister urges Centre to withdraw all three farm laws

'Constructive steps needed to initiate talks'

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** on 26.05.2021 *(English Translation).*

Six months have been completed today (25.05.2021) after the farmers all over the country started their agitation in Delhi protesting against the 3 Farm Acts - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020, Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020, Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Protection and Facilitation) Act 2020 – passed in Parliament violating Parliamentary procedures.

It is worrying that till date, the Union Government has not taken any steps to withdraw the Acts and has not taken any constructive measures to initiate talks with the agitating farmers.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in its election manifesto for 2021 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly made the assurance that the party will adopt a resolution in the Assembly demanding withdrawal of the 3 Farm acts and will demand that the Union Government enact a law to withdraw these Farm Laws.

The party, in keeping with its Poll manifesto will continue to support the farmers in their agitation against these farm laws.

News in Pictures

Coimbatore District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, inaugurated 50 car ambulance services at the Coimbatore Government Medical College ESI Hospital on 30.05.2021.

Erode District

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru.M.K.Stalin** conducted a review of anti-Corona activities at the Erode Government Medical College Hospital and at the Corona Treatment Centre in Erode on 30.05.2021.

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, chaired a meeting at the Coimbatore Collectorate, on 30.05.2021, to review the steps being taken to control the Corona virus in the Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Nilgiris, Erode and Salem Districts.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, chaired a meeting in the Secretariat, to review the financial position of the State on 31.05.2021. The meeting was attended by Hon'ble Minister for Finance Thiru. Palanivel Thiagarajan, Chief Secretary to Government, Dr. Irai Anbu I.A.S., and other high Government officials.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** declared open a special treatment centre with 100 beds having oxygen facility at the Tiruppur Government Medical College Hospital and reviewed on 30.05.2021.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the car ambulance service at the Tiruppur Government Medical College Hospital on 30.05.2021.
A fleet of 20 cars is available for this service.

Hon'ble Chief Minister writes to Hon'ble President

'Remit life sentence of seven convicts in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case'

Hon'ble President of India,

Vanakkam,

I wish to bring to your kind notice that we have been demanding the early release of Mrs. S Nalini, Mr. Santhan, Mr. A.G. Perarivalan, Mr. Jayakumar, Mr. Robert Payas, and Mr. P. Ravichandran, who were all convicted in the case of assassination of Thiru. Rajiv Gandhi, Hon'ble former Prime Minister of India, as they have been undergoing the agony of imprisonment for about three decades.

In this regard I wish to state that Mrs. Nalini's original death sentence was commuted under Article 161 of the Constitution of India. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also commuted the death sentence of other three convicts to that of life imprisonment.

The majority of political parties in Tamil Nadu have been requesting for the remission of remainder of their sentence and immediate release of all the 7 convicts as they have been incarcerated for about three decades. It is also the will of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Further, on the matter, on 09.09.2018, the Government of Tamil Nadu had recommended to the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu for the remission of the rest of the sentence for all seven convicts and their early release. The purported obstacle for exercise of the power of remission was the pendency of the investigation by the Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency of CBI. It has been clarified by the respective stands of the Union Government and CBI before the Hon'ble Supreme Court that there is no connection between the remission of sentence and investigation.

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Governor has decided the Hon'ble President of India is the competent authority to decide on the plea of remission of sentence of these seven persons, and therefore has forwarded the State Government's recommendation to Your Excellency's office.

These seven person have already suffered untold hardship and agony in the past three decades and have paid a heavy price. There has already been an inordinate delay in the consideration of their pleas for remission. In the present circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic, Courts are also recognizing the need to decongest prisons.

I therefore request the Hon'ble President to kindly accept the recommendation of the State Government dated 09.09.2018 and pass appropriate orders to remit the life sentence of all the seven convicts viz., of Mrs. S Nalini, Mr. Santhan, Mr. A.G. Perarivalan, Mr. Jayakumar, Mr. Robert Payas, and Mr. P. Ravichandran and direct their release immediately and oblige.

■

Commission submits interim report, Government action follows

Cases against Sterlite agitators withdrawn with exceptions; compensation to 93 arrested persons

The one man Commission, headed by the retired High Court Judge Tmt. Aruna Jagadeesan, to enquire into the police firing on those who organized agitation demanding closure of Thoothukudi Sterlite Copper Smelter Plant on 22.05.2018, and the loss of life, injuries to people and damages to public and private properties, submitted its interim report to the Government of Tamil Nadu on 14.05.2021.

In its report, the Commission made the recommendation that unnecessary cases filed by the police may be withdrawn. The recommendations were sent to the Advocate General and the Director General of Police for their comments. Based on the report received from them, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin announced the following decisions.

All the cases filed in this connection will be withdrawn except those referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the cases registered for damaging the public and private properties.

Cases have been registered before the agitation (22.05.2021) and some of those cases have been pending before the High Court. Except those cases pending before the High Court, the rest of the cases have been withdrawn.

The Commission recommended compensation to 94 persons who were arrested by the police during the agitation and who suffered injuries and mental stress. Based on the recommendation, the Government announced a compensation of Rupees One lakh each to 93 persons. The remaining one person died in police custody. As his family lost its life support, his 72-year old mother will be given Rupees 2 lakh as compensation.

No objection certificate will be issued for pursuing higher education and employment to all those who were arrested by the Police.

Hon’ble Chief Minister apprises all-party leaders of situation, invites suggestions

‘New Government taking manifold measures to tackle Corona pandemic’

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the consultative meeting held with all Legislative Party leaders regarding preventive steps against Corona infections *(English Translation).*

At the outset, I thank you all for honoring my invitation to this all party meeting of Legislative Leaders for considering preventive and relief measures at a time when the Corona virus is spreading rapidly in Tamil Nadu.

As per my assurance given already that my Government will be transparent, I have convened this meeting to explain to you all the steps taken in respect of Corona prevention and relief and to get your suggestions.

I realized the impact and intensity of the Corona infection even before this Government assumed responsibility after winning the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly election, obtained views of officials on facing it and was offering suggestions to them.

You are aware of the five important Government orders I issued after taking over the office of Chief Minister. One of them is to implement the electoral pledge of providing cash

relief of Rs.4,000 to the poor and marginalized people whose livelihood has been affected due to the Corona pandemic; the G.O seeks to achieve this through distribution of the relief in two instalments to all the families holding the rice card and work on this has started. In a situation where many among the public affected by Corona are getting treated in private hospitals also, this Government issued an order for the bearing of such hospital costs by the State Government itself under the Government insurance scheme to reduce their difficulties.

On the same evening, this Government took many important decisions after holding consultations with the Chief Secretary to Government, high officials and medical experts. I held a video conference with District Collectors also.

In the following days too, this Government had been taking appropriate decisions after ascertaining details every day of the virus spread and stocks available in respect of medicine and vaccine dose.

I wish to inform you of some of the important steps taken by the Government in the last few days in this regard.

1. A centralized command centre (war room) has been set up to properly integrate the needs of patients requiring Corona treatment like beds, oxygen availability and ambulance category-wise and monitor it round-the-clock, to serve the people.

2. A 4-member team consisting of I.A.S. officers, headed by the Principal Secretary to the Department of Industries has been set up to supervise oxygen stock, ensure arrival of oxygen from other States and co-ordinate receipt of oxygen from industrial establishments.

3. A cash incentive to doctors and nurses engaged in the great task of treating Corona infected patients and compensation to health care staff who have laid down their lives while on duty are given now. Accordingly, orders have been issued to disburse Rs.25 lakh each to the families of 43 doctors who have died on duty. As incentive, it has been ordered to provide Rs.30,000 to doctors, Rs.20,000 to nurses, Rs.15,000 to other staff and Rs.20,000 to post graduate doctors and internees for the months of April, May and June.

4. With focused attention, this Government is taking all steps to administer vaccines to all persons in the age group 18 to 45 in a short time through floating global tenders for the import of vaccine doses.

5. Steps were taken to bring oxygen from other States like Odisha and West Bengal, applying pressure on the Centre and it has yielded results. However, considering the increasing demand, this Government is making other efforts to increase the oxygen stock. I will inform you in a couple of days.

6. Remdesivir is being sold in important cities as this medicine is required, not only in Chennai but to many patients across the State.

7. As many people have faith in systems like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani and as many are said to have benefited from them, a separate treatment centre has been set up at Tambaram. I inaugurated this centre two days ago.

8. Oxygen concentrators are being received from foreign countries like Singapore and Taiwan through those Governments on account of the efforts put in by the State Government and through industries and donors.

9. The demand for beds for accommodating patients is increasing as more people in all Districts in the State are being affected by the virus. Anticipating this, bed strength is being created in larger numbers. At the Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, more beds have been brought in and put to use.

10. Private laboratories too have been permitted to conduct RT-PCR tests for quick dissemination of test results to people and for increasing the number of tests. I have directed the price fixation committee to convene a meeting immediately for fixing proper charges for these tests.

11. With the view that the Corona preventive and restrictive measures should not affect the industrial and commercial establishments, a consultative meeting was held on 09.05.2021 with them. On the basis of the outcome of that meeting, this Government has given many concessions to small and micro industries. This will ensure the stability of the economy and the protection of industries and commerce.

This Government has been taking many such steps like these in this short period. The Government headed by me is taking focused measures on a war footing to protect our people from this spreading pandemic. Prevention of fatalities has been prioritized.

Some relaxations have been announced in the total lockdown period for safeguarding people's livelihood. Exploiting these relaxations, some breach the lockdown rules. I seek your esteemed views on whether these relaxations can be extended or some changes can be effected.

All of you here are elected representatives. I affectionately request you all to share your suggestions, views and information received from your constituencies for jointly safeguarding our people.

Measures put in place to ensure hassle-free availability of essentials during lockdown

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin has issued orders that during the full lockdown in the State there should be uninterrupted distribution of vegetables, fruits, milk and other essential articles to people without any difficulty.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister announced that one week lockdown would be implemented in the State without relaxation from 24.05.2021 to control the Corona virus in the State and during the lockdown period, officers of the Departments concerned should take necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted supply of vegetables, fruits, milk and other essential articles to the public.

In this connection, a review meeting was conducted at the Secretariat on 25.05.2021 under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Chief Minister regarding distribution of essential articles without any interruption to the public during the lockdown period.

As already advised by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, various Departments, including Horticulture Department, Agriculture Department, Agricultural Marketing and Agri Business Department, Aavin and Greater Chennai Corporation, have made arrangements in Greater Chennai Corporation area and other parts of the State for distribution of vegetables, fruits, milk, provisions and other essential articles through mobile vans for the public without interruption.

As far as Greater Chennai Corporation is concerned, in 200 wards in 15 Divisions, steps are being taken to distribute essential articles at the door step of residents in co-ordination with the traders associations. As on 24.05.2021, 1,400 tonnes of vegetables and fruits were sold through 1,670 mobile vans in Chennai; in other Districts, 3,500 metric tonnes were sold through 4,626 vans. Totally 4,900 tonnes of vegetables were sold through 6,296 vans.

At today's review meeting, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed officials of the Departments concerned to ensure that essentials are supplied through mobile vans to all residents in Greater Chennai Corporation and other parts of the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that the service, which is being carried out well in urban areas should be done in a similar manner in rural areas also.

On 25.05.2021, steps were taken to distribute 6,509 metric tonnes of vegetables and fruits through 13,096 mobile vans. The Hon'ble Chief Minister gave the advice that in the coming days, for the convenience of the public, officials should ensure that adequate quantities of vegetables and fruits are available at fair prices.

Penalty for delay in registration of births,deaths waived

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin has ordered withdrawal of penalty for delay in Birth and Death registration, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of Tamil Nadu is taking various steps to reduce the hardships to people during these times of Corona virus.

It is implementing measures to control the spread of the Corona virus and to improve treatment facilities for Corona virus patients. Despite the utmost effort put in by doctors, casualities do occur. It has been mandatory to register deaths within 21 days with the Registrar of Births and Deaths under the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1969. If death is registered after 21 days and before 30 days a fine of Rs.100 is levied; the fine is Rs.200 if it is more than 30 days but less than one year and Rs.500 if it is more than one year.

As people are very much affected due to the ongoing pandemic, the present free structure adds a burden on them. When this was brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, he announced that the penalty for late registration will be waived and the Government itself will bear the burden of penalty. Based on this, the penalty for registration of all births/deaths from January 1, 2020 in Local Bodies/ Panchayats has been waived and the Government itself will bear the loss likely to be incurred by the local bodies and panchayats. However, the public are requested to register births/deaths in their families promptly and co-operate with the Government.

Private hospitals to be supplied Remdesivir, new system does away with crowding at sales centres

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, at the Secretariat on 16.05.2021, conducted a review meeting regarding distribution of Remdesivir drug to patients undergoing treatment at private hospitals in the State.

For patients undergoing treatment at the Government Hospitals, sufficient Remdesivir is supplied through the Tamil Nadu Medical Service Corporation. For those undergoing treatment at private hospitals, Remdesivir is supplied through the hospitals, and through common sales centres in Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli from where Remdesivir was procured by the relatives of patients.

Only in Tamil Nadu in the entire Country, Remdesivir has been supplied to relatives of patients directly. But it was found that there was heavy gathering of relatives at the sales centres. In their anxiety to purchase the drug, the relatives did not observe social distancing, resulting in the spread of the virus. Moreover, there were reports that some of the purchasers were selling these drugs in the black market at exorbitant prices. Meanwhile, officials of the World Health Organization and medical experts opined that Remdesivir is giving relief only to patients who are under oxygen treatment and it is not that much effective for the remaining patients.

For the above reasons, to reduce the difficulties of the general public and to change

the existing system of Remdesivir distribution, the Hon'ble Chief Minister advised that the drug should be supplied only through the hospitals. Through this, the system of issuing prescriptions to the relatives of patients for the purchase of Remdesivir from sales centres will be obviated.

The new system of distribution will come into effect from 18.05.2021. All the private hospitals have to upload the details of patients in their hospitals and the required doses of medicines, in the website to be opened shortly by the Government. The Government will consider their demands and allot the drug to the hospitals, whereupon the representatives of the private hospitals concerned can collect the drug from the sales centres applicable to them.

The drugs sold to the private hospitals should be used only for eligible patients. The hospitals should charge the price at which the drug is supplied to them. Officials of the Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department will monitor the usage of the drug by the hospitals and legal action will be taken against hospitals which indulge in black marketing of the drug or those that prescribe it for patients who don't need it. ■

News in Picture

126th Birth Anniversary of 'Kanniya Thendral' Quaid-e-Millath

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** paid floral tributes to 'Kanniya Thendral' Quaid-e-Millath on 05.06.2021 to mark his 126th Birth Anniversary, at his memorial in the Wallajah Big Mosque at Triplicane in Chennai. Hon'ble Ministers, MPs, MLAs, Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Director, Information Department and other high Government Officials were with him on the occasion.

Detailing all-out efforts against Corona at all-party meet, Hon'ble Chief Minister urges people to take the pledge

'Neither will I be infected nor will I pass the infection to others'

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the committee meeting of all Legislative Party Members on 22.05.2021 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare, Hon'ble Members of all Legislative Parties who have come to this consultative meeting on the Government's invitation, Chief Secretary to Government, Government officials, media friends – I convey my thanks and regards to all of you.

With total focus, the Government of Tamil Nadu is engaged in controlling the Corona pandemic and saving the people affected by it.

At the outset, I thank on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu all Legislative Party Members who are offering their full support and providing constructive suggestions for the Government's activities.

Now, our single aim is to eradicate this pandemic. For that, we have to forget all our political differences and function in unison. All of us are of this conviction.

We have assembled here transcending party boundaries. Corona eradication alone should be our only aim.

A similar meeting of all Party Legislative Members was held on last 13th. After listening to your views and the suggestions of medical experts, the Government of Tamil Nadu drafted some rules regarding lockdown and implemented them.

The lockdown is in operation with some more restrictions brought about in the interest of the people and the purpose of controlling Corona, from 17.05.2021. This lockdown expires on 24.05.2021.

Breaking the chain of Corona spread is important to control the virus. To achieve this purpose, total lockdown was enforced. I wish to state that this consultative meeting has been convened to take decisions regarding this total lockdown's next phase.

You are aware of various intensive actions taken by the Government to control Corona. I shall recount them briefly to you.

Of these, oxygen availability is important. The Tamil Nadu Government's most important aim is to fulfil oxygen needs in toto and it is functioning in that direction.

• On the Tamil Nadu Government's request, the Union Government has increased the State's oxygen allotment from 480 metric tonnes to 519 metric tonnes.

• The daily arrival from Odisha State is 100 metric tonnes of oxygen; empty tankers are air-lifted and filled oxygen cylinders are received by train.

• Two IAS officers have been posted in Odisha to supervise proper receipt of the oxygen supplied in Odisha State and its transportation.

• The Government of Tamil Nadu has held talks with the Maharashtra Government for supply of 900 metric tonnes of oxygen. That Government is examining the proposal at present. An I.A.S. officer has been posted to Maharashtra for this purpose and he will oversee the measures being taken.

• In our State, oxygen production works are being undertaken jointly with industries through TIDCO.

• The Industries Department is arranging the import of life-saving equipment at a cost of Rs.40 crore. These include oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders, regulators, flow meters and cryogenic Iso tankers.

• Arrangements have been made to purchase 2,150 cylinders from Singapore through SIPCOT and 1,000 more through CII. Ways and means have been explored to get 800 cylinders from Dubai, 975 from South Korea and 380 from Malaysia.

• 2,675 oxygen concentrators are proposed to be purchased through Chennai Municipal Corporation at a cost of Rs.22 crore. Further,

orders have been issued to purchase 5,000 concentrators from Singapore and 185 from Lebanon at a cost of Rs.20 crore.

• Steps have been taken to get 2,000 oxygen concentrators on a credit basis through the World Bank.

• The Singapore Red Cross Society and the World Health Organization have come forward to provide 2,000 and 100 concentrators respectively.

• Of the 2,630 regulators procured in Singapore, 1,780 have landed.

• Of the 3,250 flow meters, ordered to be procured from Singapore, 250 have landed now.

• Many companies have come forward to set up 156 mini oxygen production plants in different Districts.

• At an expenditure of Rs.23 crore, 12 cryogenic tankers have been imported from China and 5 from Taiwan.

• Through the oxygen optimizer equipment, oxygen usage in Government Hospitals has been reduced.

• The Government of Tamil Nadu has announced a 30 per cent capital subsidy to establishments that invest in Tamil Nadu to produce oxygen concentrators, oxygen cylinders and oxygen. The subsidy is available to establishments that start the units between January 1st and August 31st. A similar 30 per cent capital subsidy will be provided in 5 years to companies that invest for production of a minimum of 10 metric tonnes of oxygen before November 30th. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation will provide companies that invest so, loan immediately at 6 per cent interest/subsidy.

• It is proposed to produce liquid oxygen additionally at Hosur through Inox company.

• The company SicgilSol proposes to expand its Rs.100 crore oxygen production plant at Ranipet.

• At present, we are getting oxygen from Odisha. Since there may be delay in getting that oxygen due to the cyclone havoc there, I sought an immediate supply of oxygen from Maharashtra through an emergency letter to the Union Railway Minister Thiru. Piyush Goyal which was handed over to him by Thiru. T.R. Balu, DMK Parliamentary Leader who requested an additional allotment of 900 metric tonnes of oxygen to Tamil Nadu. Acceding to the request, Thiru. Piyush Goyal assured additional allotment to Tamil Nadu.

In this way, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken great efforts to do away with oxygen shortage. We have ensured enough oxygen availability in all hospitals.

On another front, we are focused on creating medical infrastructure. In this situation, the May 10 to 24 total lockdown is coming to an end.

If it is asked whether Corona infections have come under control, the reply can only be that the spread has been reduced but has not yet come under control.

We announce some relaxations while proclaiming total lockdown in the interest of the general public. Those relaxations are only for purchase of groceries and vegetables. But it has become a habit for some to loiter outside unnecessarily by exploiting these relaxations. We have instructed the police to advise such persons and send them back. But some people turn a deaf ear to such kind advice.

Total lockdown is for the good of the people; to protect and save their lives. It is regrettable that some in the general public don't realize this.

Some people consider a total lockdown a holiday period and go round town. This is not a holiday period; there are still some who do not realize that it is a Corona period.

People should resolve – "I will neither be infected by Corona nor pass it on to others". Such a pledge alone can put a full stop to Corona.

To create this awareness, we produce videos, casting cine artists.

The fear of Corona is reflected in people's speech. But, it should come out in their action. We are to instill that sense of caution in people still.

In the last one year, we have lost precious human lives. A question mark hangs over the future of many families. We have to put a full stop quickly to such losses.

The trials and tribulations faced by our doctors, nurses and frontline workers in the last one year are immense. We have lost many doctors. The entire medical sector has come under a vast mental stress. They are staking their lives in performing their service. No more burden and stress can be imposed on them.

School and college students face a very grave crisis. Once, holiday was a joyous period for them; now it has turned into a sorrowful period. They can become mentally stressed. How long schools and colleges can still be kept closed down? Soon, we have to provide them with an education and a future.

Keeping all these in mind, I held a consultative meeting with medical experts, just before I came here, for controlling the corona spread. Their unanimous suggestion was implementation of a total lockdown alone without any relaxations, wholly and intensively can control the infection spread.

During my tour of Districts also, the same view was expressed to me widely.

Hence, in this situation, the Government has to take a decision on implementing a total lockdown without any relaxation.

Already, your suggestions have been obtained on the steps to be taken on controlling the virus spread and action is being taken on them.

So, I affectionately request Hon'ble Members, taking into account the time constraint, to share your excellent views on the lockdown only in a focused manner.

■

In letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister

Hon'ble Chief Minister urges waiver of GST on Corona vaccines, medicines

In a situation where all States have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, they are procuring vaccine doses for controlling this virus and medicines for treatment of patients. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin has written a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India requesting him to take note of this situation and fix zero rate GST on vaccines and medicines for a specified period after consulting the GST Council.

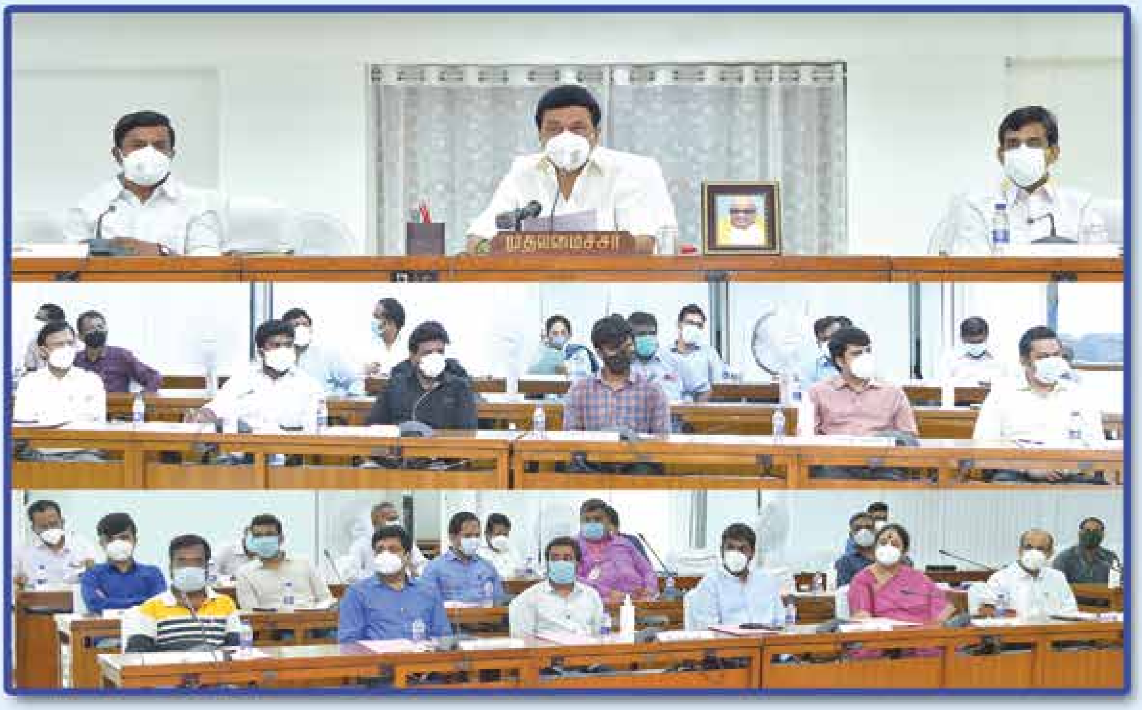
As the Corona virus has affected economic growth, the State Governments' tax revenue has dwindled to a large extent, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said and requested the Union Government to implement the following three steps and help the State Governments:

1. Immediate release of the pending compensation on GST losses and payment to State Civil Supplies Corporations of rice subsidy amount.

2. In the context of Central Government not sharing with State Governments the income it gets by the levy of surcharge on petrol and diesel, an ad hoc grants-in-aid should be given to State Governments to compensate their losses due to the Corona pandemic.

3. The permitted level of 3 per cent of State's GDP for raising loans for mobilizing funds to meet the additional expenditure incurred in these times, should be raised by one per cent.

Hon'ble Chief Minister's message to visual media journalists: create awareness, exercise caution



To create Corona awareness among the people, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin convened a meeting of visual media journalists at the Secretariat 10th floor of Namakkal Kavignar Maligai on 16.05.2021.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, in his speech at the meeting, appealed to the journalists to extend their full co-operation to the Government as visual journalists perform a very important role as frontline workers in the fight against the Corona virus.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister explained the various steps being taken by the Government to control the virus since the takeover of the administration. Significant among the steps is the Government's proposal to purchase 3.5 crore vaccination doses through world tenders. Apart from this, liquid oxygen is being brought by Air Force planes from Amsterdam. Through SIPCOT, orders have been placed for 1,900 empty cylinders from Singapore. Of these, 500 empty cylinders have arrived and been sent to oxygen filling stations.

While the Government is taking various steps to curb the virus in the State, the media also has the very important role of creating awareness among the people and informing them correctly about the measures being implemented. Therefore, while fully informing people about the manifold measures being taken

by the Government for their well-being and the protection of their lives, the visual media should also exercise great caution on the manner in which they publish news.

Apart from giving constructive suggestions to the Government, media persons should focus on the awareness slogans put out by the Government and create awareness among the public about the steps they should follow to curb the virus infections.

As the country's future lies in the welfare of the people, we should all remain united and act with the single aim of creating awareness among the people to eradicate the Corona virus from the State.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Dr. V. Irai Anbu I.A.S., welcomed the gathering. Hon'ble Minister for Information & Publicity Thiru. M.P.Saminathan proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Tamil Development and Information Department, Director of Information and Public Relations, officials of the Department and representatives of leading television news channels.

300 additional beds with oxygen facility in Thanjavur medical college hospital

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin declared open through video conferencing at the Secretariat on 03.06.2021, the Thanjavur Medical College Hospital's COVID-19 Special Treatment Centre to whose already existing 1,000 oxygen facility beds another 300 such beds had been added.

On this occasion, Thiru.S.S.Palanimanickam, MP, Thanjavur, Chief Government whip Dr. Govi Chezhian, MLAs Thiru. Sakkottai G. Anbalagan, Thiru. Durai Chandrasekaran, Thiru. N.Ashok Kumar and Thiru. T.K.G. Neelamegam and Thanjavur District Collector Thiru. M.Govinda Rao I.A.S., participated from Thanjavur and Chief Secretary Dr. Irai Anbu I.A.S., and high Government officials from the Secretariat.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reviews conduct of online classes, issues guidelines

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** conducted a review meeting on the monitoring online classes in schools and colleges 26.05.2021 *(English Translation)*.

Due to the Corona pandemic, throughout the country including Tamil Nadu, educational institutions are closed and online classes are being conducted. Taking into consideration the reports received about the functioning of these online classes, to streamline them and to take quick action in the case of any wrongdoing while conducting the online classes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister convened a meeting at the Secretariat on 26.05.2021.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also reviewed the 'unfortunate' incidents that had occurred recently during the online classes and the action taken against the guilty. The Hon'ble Chief Minister instructed officials that such unfortunate incidents should not occur in future and legal action should be taken against the guilty. To prevent such incidents in other schools and colleges, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued the following guidelines and orders.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered recording and storing of online classes for periodic review by a 2-member committee consisting of one each from the respective School Administration and the Parent-Teacher Association.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also constituted a committee, consisting of representatives from the Commissioner of School Education, Director of School Education, Cyber Crimes branch and prevention of crimes against women and children, educationists, and psychologists. The committee will be given a week's time to draft guidelines to curb sexual abuses in educational institutions and draft guidelines for conducting online classes.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also made the assurance that action would be taken under POCSO against those who behave inappropriately with students. A separate helpline would be created to enable the children file their complaints.

The Chanakya of Indian politics

Karunanidhi is wily – truly the Chanakya of not just Tamil politics but also Indian politics. When politics required him to bend, he could and would. When politics required him to take a strident, unbending stand, that too would be accomplished with panache. The large, dentured smile, trademark dark glasses and yellow shawl are omnipresent in Tamil Nadu – banners are unmissable, posters adorn walls, the rising sun election symbol of the DMK is painted on the mud walls of huts in the most remote corners of the state. Thalaivar – leader – to his partymen, Kalaignar – artist – to his political peers, Thatha – grandfather – to the younger generation of Tamils, Karunanidhi is closely identified with Tamil Nadu itself.

KARUNANIDHI
A Life in Politics
- by Sandhya Ravishankar

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** presented cheques to six employees of transport corporations who had retired between January 2020 and April 2020, at the Secretariat on 02.06.2021, as a token for the distribution of cheques to 2,457 such retirees towards their pending pensionable benefits amounting to Rs.497.32 crore. Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources Thiru. Duraimurugan and Hon'ble Minister for Transport Thiru.R.S. Rajakannappan, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Transport Department and high Government officials were present on the occasion.

Tamil Nadu announces Rs. 25 lakh each for families of 43 doctors who died serving COVID-19 patients

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** on 12.05.2021 *(English Translation)*.

Doctors, nurses and other support staff have been tirelessly rendering magnificent service for the past one year in the great task of saving Corona-affected patients by giving them the required treatment. Some doctors have sacrificed their lives in the call of duty. This Government realizes that it is a great sacrifice that cannot be compensated. By way of offering solace to their families, the Government has decided to provide Rs.25 lakh to the families of each of the 43 doctors who had contracted the virus while treating Corona patients and died.

By way of appreciation, this Government has also decided to give an incentive to all the health workers working in Government Hospitals round-the-clock, inclusive of doctors, nurses, sanitary workers, laboratory assistants and those handling CT scan and ambulance, engaged in Corona infection treatment and connected services. Accordingly, doctors will be given Rs.30,000 for the three months of April, May and June in the second wave of the Corona virus, nurses Rs.20,000, other workers Rs.15,000, and post-graduate doctors and intern doctors Rs.20,000.

All-party advisory committee of legislators formed to offer suggestions on tackling COVID situation

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K. Stalin convened a meeting of leaders of all Tamil Nadu Legislature Parties at the Secretariat on 13.05.2021, in connection with the steps to be taken to control the Corona virus spread in the State.

At the meeting, a resolution (Resolution No. 4) was adopted for the constitution of an Advisory Committee of all Party Leaders to offer suggestions to the Government to prevent the spread of Corona virus in the State. As per the resolution, the Advisory Committee headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister has been formed in consultation with all Legislature Party Leaders.

The Advisory Committee

Sl. No.	Tamil Nadu Legislative Party Names	Member of the Legislative Assembly
1.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Dr. N. Ezhilan
2.	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Dr. C.Vijayabaskar
3.	Indian National Congress	Thiru. A.M.Munirathinam
4.	Pattali Makkal Katchi	Thiru. G.K.Mani
5.	Bharatiya Janata Party	Thiru. Nainar Nagendran
6.	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Dr. T.Sadhan Thirumalaikumar
7.	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	Thiru. S.S.Balaji
8.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Thiru. V.P. Nagai Mali
9.	Communist Party of India	Thiru. T.Ramachandran
10.	Manithaneya Makkal Katchi	Dr. M.H. Jawahirullah
11.	Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi	Thiru. E. R. Eswaran
12.	Tamizhaga Vaazhvurimai Katchi	Thiru. T.Velmurugan
13.	Puratchi Bharatham	Poovai Thiru. Jagan Murthi

The Advisory Committee will meet based on the emerging COVID-19 virus situation and make suggestions to the State Government. The Secretary of the Public Department will be the Member Secretary of the committee.

Tamil Nadu Government cancels holding of Class 12 Board exams after wide-ranging consultations

Thousands of people have been affected by the second wave of the Corona pandemic. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a number of steps on a war footing to control the virus and has been successful in its efforts. Taking into consideration the educational interest and welfare of the students, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been taking various measures after consulting people in various strata of society.

Due to this pandemic, the Central Government's Central Bureau of School Education (CBSE) has already cancelled the 12th Standard Examination. Various States have also cancelled the 12th standard annual examination for the same reason.

Regarding conduct of State-level 12th standard final examinations, the Government of Tamil Nadu held consultations from the school level to District and State level, for the past three days under the presidentship of the School Education Minister, with students, parents, teachers, teachers associations, educationists, MLAs belonging to various political parties, media personnel, health experts and psychologists. Though there were contrary opinions expressed by the groups about conducting the examinations, they were unanimous and firm that the physical and mental well-being of students must be protected.

The second wave of the Corona pandemic is still serious in various parts of the State and medical experts have made the forecast that there is the possibility of a third wave. As per the present law, only those who are above the age of 18 are eligible for vaccination. Medical experts opine that allowing unvaccinated students below the age of 18 to write examinations may increase the risk of spreading the virus.

Despite the State Government's firmness that admission to higher education should be based only on the students' performance at the State-level 12th standard examinations, medical experts feel that postponing the examinations even further would affect the students mentally. So, after consulting the experts from the medical and other fields, it has been decided to cancel the examinations. Meanwhile, to decide on the methodology of awarding marks for students in the absence of the examinations, a committee under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary of the School Education consisting of Higher Education Secretary, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University and school headmasters has been formed. This committee will submit a report on how to award marks to students. Based on the committee's reports, marks will be awarded.

The Government of Tamil Nadu considers it inappropriate to hold entrance examinations such as NEET, when the State-level examinations have been cancelled in Tamil Nadu and other States. As no announcement has been made so far, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Thiru. Narendra Modi, to cancel the entrance examinations for higher education. Though the decision to cancel the examinations has been taken in view of the virus pandemic and the students physical and mental well-being, the State Government is firm that there should not be any hindrance for entry to higher education in the State on the basis of state-level education system.

Precautionary steps in view of Tauktae storm

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** held a review meeting on the precautionary measures to be taken in view of the Tauktae storm in the Arabian Sea.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, convened a meeting of officials at the Secretariat on 15.05.2021 to review the precautionary measures to be taken in view of the Tauktae storm off the Arabian sea.

At the meeting, Thiru. Balachandran, Director, India Meteorological Research Centre, Chennai, explained the present status of the storm and the possible rains due to the storm.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister directed Government officials to take precautionary steps in certain Districts, where there may be heavy to very heavy rains following the storm off the Arabian Sea. As fishermen who have already gone for deep sea fishing have been advised to return before 14.05.2021, the Hon’ble Chief Minister directed the officials to ensure the safety of fishermen of Kanniyakumari District.

As of now, 244 deep sea boats and 162 fishing boats have returned. The Hon’ble Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to take the necessary steps for the safe return of the remaining fishermen who have gone for fishing.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister wanted sufficient precautionary measures to be taken in the rain-prone Districts where there is a possibility of landslides, by keeping ready the necessary equipment for clearing them.

When rain-affected people are accommodated in relief camps, the necessary anti-Corona steps should be taken by the Revenue Department officials. They should also monitor the water level in the reservoirs.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister directed that the four National Disaster Rescue Teams stationed at Madurai (2), Coimbatore (1) and The Nilgiris (1) and the Tamil Nadu Disaster Rescue team should be ready to take up rescue operations immediately in case of any emergency.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens Special Vaccination camp in school, COVID-19 care centre in college

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inaugurated a Special COVID-19 Vaccination Camp at Don Bosco School campus and a 100-bed COVID-19 Care Centre with oxygen facility at Bharathi Women's College, in the Royapuram Division of Greater Chennai, on 27.05.2021.

As per the advice of Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin, steps are being taken to control the COVID virus and to provide treatment to virus-affected patients. As part of

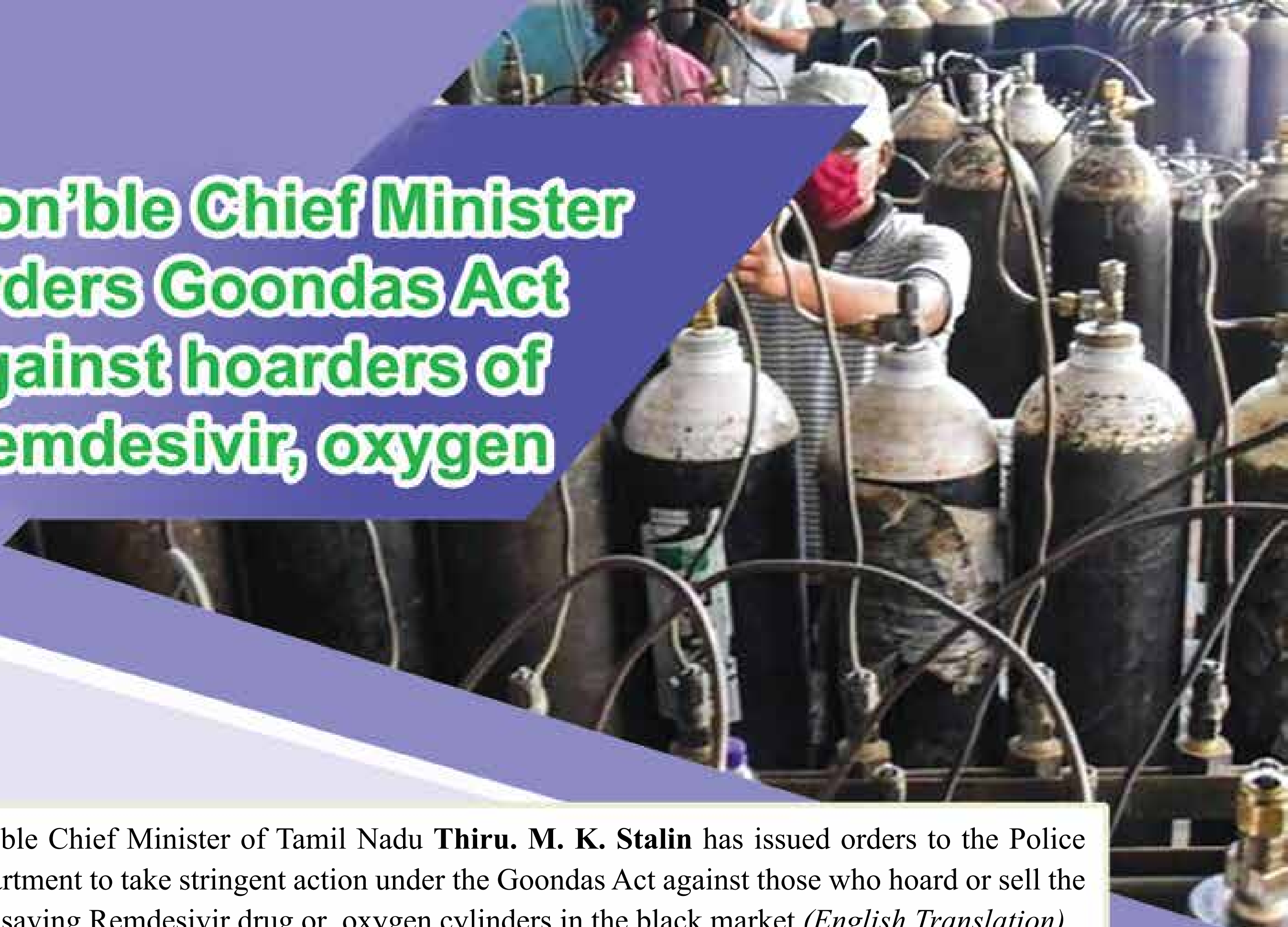
these measures, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, free COVID Vaccination camps are conducted for those above 45 years, and on priority basis to those in the age group of 18 to 45 and to differently-abled persons.

As COVID-affected persons need to be treated with oxygen facilities, the Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered setting up of Treatment Centres with such facilities. On this basis, the Special Vaccination camp was declared open on 27.05.2021 at Don Bosco School campus by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister later declared open a 100-bed COVID Treatment Centre with oxygen facilities in the campus of the Bharathi Women's College. In this centre, 40 beds are reserved exclusively for women. Treatment is given to patients in co-ordination with the Stanley Government Hospital. Nine doctors and 16 nurses are on round-the-clock duty. Ten persons have been appointed for conservancy work on rotation basis. An LED touch screen has been installed at the Centre to inform relatives of the health conditions of patients. Two ambulances have been kept ready at the Centre for patients in case they require advanced treatment. Food, drinking water and medicines will be provided to patients by the Stanley Hospital and the Greater Chennai Corporation.

◆

Hon'ble Chief Minister orders Goondas Act against hoarders of Remdesivir, oxygen



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** has issued orders to the Police Department to take stringent action under the Goondas Act against those who hoard or sell the life-saving Remdesivir drug or oxygen cylinders in the black market *(English Translation).*

A statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in this regard says, "The Government of Tamil Nadu under my leadership has been taking action with the primary task of saving the lives of people. It has therefore become necessary to take stern action against those who act against this objective".

Tamil Nadu has not escaped the severe grip of the second wave of the Corona virus, which has caused a devastating impact throughout the world and especially in India. Steps are in full swing to completely control the spreading Corona virus and the deaths caused by it. The Government is working round-the-clock to this end. Following our appeal, public spirited people are supporting the Government in this task.

Even poor people are co-operating with the Government fully by swallowing the bitter pill of lockdown by sacrificing their livelihood. At the same time, some anti-social elements are hoarding the Remdesivir drug and selling it in the black market at an exorbitant price.

Similarly, reports are coming that oxygen cylinders are being sold at a higher price. Such activities during the pandemic are grave crimes against humanity.

The Government has been taking a number of steps to control the spread of the Corona virus by importing vaccination doses, distributing Remdesivir, producing oxygen, increasing bed strength and providing immediate treatment to those affected by the virus.

The present Government is concerned about the life of every person in the State. In this connection, I have ordered the Police Department to take action under the Goondas Act against those who hoard and sell Remdesivir and oxygen cylinders in the black market.

Special Corona Treatment Centres opened in Thisayanvilai, Valliyur

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, at the Secretariat on 02.06.2021, declared open through video conferencing, a 140 - bed Special Corona Treatment Centre in the St.Antony College in Thisayanvilai in Tirunelveli District and another 180-bed Special Corona Treatment Centre in the Universal Engineering College in Valliyur.

Through these centres people in and around Valliyur and Radhapuram Divisions can get treatment in their places instead of going to Tirunelveli and other areas. For these new treatment centres, medicines will be supplied through Primary Health Centres in Thisayanvilai and Vadakkankulam.

In Tirunelveli District, there are 668 beds with oxygen facilities, 1,587 beds without oxygen facilities and 188 beds in emergency wards. Totally, there are 2,441 beds in Government Hospitals, Primary Health Centres and in 8 Corona Treatment Centres. In private hospitals, there are 300 beds with oxygen facilities, 231 without oxygen facilities and 79 beds in Emergency wards, making a total of 810 beds.

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker Thiru. M.Appavu, Thiru. S.Gnanathiraviam MP, and MLAs Thiru. Ruby R.Manohar, Thiru. M. Abdul Wahab, former Assembly Speaker Thiru. R.Avudaiappan and District Collector Thiru. V.Vishnu I.A.S., participated in the function from Tirunelveli and the Chief Secretary, Dr.Irai Anbu I.A.S., and other Government officials from Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister welcomes new Speaker with great warmth, assures him of ruling party's full support in the best democratic traditions

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 12.05.2021 *(English Translation).*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I convey my heart-felt gratitude through You (Speaker) to all the people of Tamil Nadu who have extended their support to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam that has become the definition for Puratchi Kavignar Bharathidasan's assertion "our lives and our prosperity is the ever bright Tamil (language)", to get a majority in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Election and form a Government.

Kavignar Thanikaichelvan praised our leader Kalaignar, who resides in our hearts always, thus: "Classical Tamil is your physique; the sceptre is your finger; your ringing voice is bronze; triumphs are your feet; you are an embodiment of Sangam literature; you are an ocean of political wisdom; Mother Tamil reigns in your heart, all your thoughts centre around Tamils". I commence my speech, paying respect to that leader.

There is no word to describe the extent of my happiness when I see you seated on this seat. I am more overwhelmed with emotion, pride and happiness than what you are experiencing now in your seat. All the speakers here particularly mentioned this; your majestic participation in the debates in all TV channels and the way you put in your argument in an interesting manner with relevant points. I have also seen your discussions in the channels. In that respect, we are all very proud that you have been elected unopposed as the Speaker of

this Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, known for its constructive discussions and democratic traditions.

The Speaker's post – which you assumed – "is the symbol of the freedom and independence of a country," said Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. He pointed out further: "The Speaker represents the Assembly; he is the symbol of its dignity and independence". You symbolize that independence and freedom. You are sitting here in Khadi attire. You appear as a symbol of purity and integrity to the Members of this Assembly. Your presence here as the Speaker of the 16th Assembly honours this great Assembly. All the persons who adorned this post brought honours to this House. Most of the Speakers of this House were from the Southern Districts. To mention a few, they include respected Thiru. S. Chellapandian, Thiru. C.P.Adithanar, Thiru. P.H.Pandian, Dr. M.Tamilkudimagan, Thiru. Sedapatti R. Muthiah, Thiru. P.T.R.Palanivel Rajan, Thiru. K. Kalimuthu and Thiru. R.Avudaiappan. Now you have been elected. The Speakers had the capacity of conducting the House in a democratic way. There is not an iota of doubt for anyone here, that you too will conduct this House in a democratic way, keeping that tradition. This hall was the very place where the first Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was convened, following the first General Election held in 1952 after India's independence.

As the strength of the Legislative Assembly of the then Madras (Chennai) Presidency was 375 before the formation of linguistic States, a new Assembly building with sufficient seating capacity was constructed in the Government Estate. For the first five years, the Assembly Sessions were held in that building. After the linguistic division, the strength of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly diminished and the holding of its sessions reverted back to Fort St. George. That you are occupying the Speaker's seat here, convened at a place of such historic value, is really praiseworthy. It is a matter of joy and pride. We consider it as a golden period to function in this Assembly under the leadership of one who has grown through large-heartedness, intelligence and efficiency.

Born in Labbaikudikadu near Kavalkinaru in Tirunelveli District, you started your life as a school teacher. You taught mathematics and English at the Thiru Iruthaya Higher Secondary School in Kavalkinaru but left the profession due to your involvement in politics. You taught students; now you are the Chief in this Assembly having 234 MLAs. After functioning as a member three times in this Assembly, you have won for the fourth time also and have now been crowned with this office.

We will certainly obey your orders, commands, nay even a glance of yours. "The Legislative Assembly should function as a body to do good to society, not as an authority". Who said this? Thanthai Periyar. We are his followers.

The Leader of the Opposition also mentioned. "In a democratic country, the ruling party and the opposition parties are the two sides of a coin. The coin will become an invalid one if one side remains intact but the other is defaced". Arignar Anna pointed this out in this very same Assembly. We are his thambis.

"A mirror reflects both the good and bad aspects of a man's face. Similarly, the Legislative Assembly shows both the plus and minus points of the ruling party". Do you know who said this? It is our leader, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. We have the power to counter ideas with ideas;

but our replies will be devoid of conceit and arrogance. Democratic and traditional values will certainly be there; but on no account, will there be conceit or arrogance. I wish to firmly say that only democratic values and traditions will be there in our responses.

It is not our practice to become despondent in defeat and haughty in victory. Our leader Kalaignar did not bring us up in that way. Hence, the great victory handed down to us by the people of Tamil Nadu has made us more and more humble. To remain disciplined and humble is only to protect the democratic values of the Assembly; it should not be construed as weakness in any way. You know all these things. As such, not only I, but also all the Members here have the confidence that you will conduct the proceedings of this illustrious and hoary Assembly without making any distinction between the ruling and opposition parties and by remaining neutral. The way you have been conducted to your chair both by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition is proof of this confidence that all of us have in you.

This beautiful chair you are occupying was presented to this Assembly by Lord Willingdon and his wife. I wish to assure this House through You (Speaker) Sir, that the ruling party will not lower the dignity of this House or give room for inimical feelings. It will function so as to protect democratic traditions.

I heartily congratulate Hon'ble Thiru. K. Pichandi who has taken over the office of the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. He entered public service in 1986 as a member of the Tiruvannamalai Municipal Council and since then has the honour of being elected to the Legislative Assembly six times. In the prior Assembly, he performed excellently as the Deputy whip of the main opposition party, the DMK. He has the distinction of having participated in all debates. He has the capacity to absorb deeply the views expressed by Hon'ble Members of the Assembly. The Leader of the House too, made particular mention of it. Thiru. Pichandi used to follow the proceedings of the House till it rose for the day, sometimes even skipping lunch. He mingles with all with affection and attachment. Hence, we have selected him as the Deputy Speaker. I applaud and congratulate him.

Thiru. Pichandi will be supportive of the Speaker in protecting the honour of this House; my request is that he should.

On a personal note, I have a regret on this occasion; that is, we will be unable to benefit from your services of a political nature. But I will remind you what Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar said in this very same House when Thiru. K.A. Mathiazhagan became the Speaker. Kalaignar said: "You were our sibling, you worked along with us and were instrumental in the growth of this mighty movement; today, I will not say you have severed your relationship with that work - You have stepped aside". So, even if there is regret in a corner of my heart over our inability to make use of you for party work, I have the satisfaction that you are the most suitable person for this office. I conclude my speech conveying my grateful congratulations and good wishes to You (Speaker), Deputy Speaker and all Members of the Assembly including the Opposition parties and calling upon you all to safeguard this parliamentary democracy for ushering in a future good for us and for the people of this country.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister interacts with Nurses, congratulates them for fighting COVID-19

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin spoke to Nurses working in the Government Hospitals through video conferencing, on the occasion of 'International Nurses Day' on 12.05.2021. While greeting the Nurses, the Hon'ble Chief Minister congratulated them for being the frontline warriors in the fight against the Corona virus. Here are some details of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's speech on the occasion:

"My greetings to all of you. How are you all? At the outset, I extend my greetings on Nurses Day to all of you. I consider nurses to be embodiments of compassion. Your life is a combination of expressing love and extending it to all. You consider your work not as a profession but as a service. I congratulate you all for this".

"The past year, which is the period of the Corona virus, has seen your services increase manifold. I would like to know from each one of you how you managed to face this difficult period".

The Nurses then interacted with the Hon'ble Chief Minister. During the interaction, the Hon'ble Chief Minister enquired about their duty time, the time they spend with their family members and about the protective gadgets given to them for their work.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister then said that it is not possible to compensate the services of Doctors and Nurses with money. But to show gratitude, "I announced financial assistance to them this morning. The families of the 43 Doctors who died during anti-Corona activities will be given Rs.25 lakh each as compensation".

The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that it has been decided to give incentive to frontline workers such as Doctors and Nurses.

The incentive for doctors for 3 months - April, May and June – will be Rs.30,000 and for Nurses it will be Rs.20,000. For sanitary workers, laboratory assistants, C.T.Scan assistants and emergency van workers, Rs.15,000 will be given and trainee Doctors and post-graduate Doctors will get Rs.20,000.

"This money is given as a token of gratitude for your services," the Hon'ble Chief Minister said.

"To prevent the spread of the Corona virus we have announced a lockdown. We have scaled up measures against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I once again congratulate you for your full involvement in the fight against Corona risking your lives," the Hon'ble Chief Minister said in conclusion.

Relief of Rs. 5,000 for 1.72 lakh fishermen to help them tide over 61-day fishing ban

To protect the coastal fishery resources, every year a 61-day ban is imposed on fishing from April 15 to June 14 along the eastern coast and from June 1 to July 31 along the western coast.

As the life support of fishermen of mechanized boats, fishing trawlers and families of full-time fishing community is completely affected due to the ban, the Government has been providing relief to the affected families since 2008 to help them run their families.

As per the directive issued by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, a Government order has been issued for a financial sanction of Rs. 86 crore during the current year (2021), to provide a relief of Rs. 5,000 each to about 1.72 lakh coastal fishermen families in the State.

About 1,46,598 beneficiaries along the eastern coast in the Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai (Part) Districts and 25,402 beneficiaries along the western coast in Kanniyakumari District, totally 1,72,000 fishermen will be benefited.

The relief amount will be directly credited to the bank accounts of the beneficiary fishermen, according to Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Fishermen Welfare and Animal Husbandry, Thiru. Anitha R.Radhakrishnan.

Dependents of Thoothukudi firing victims given posts as junior assistants, jeep driver

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin handed over appointment orders to 17 persons belonging to the families of the deceased or severely injured in the police firing during the agitation in 2018 against the Thoothukudi Sterlite Copper Smelter Plant.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had issued orders for the appointment to the posts of Village Assistant and Cook to 17 persons, based on their educational qualifications, belonging to the families of the deceased or severely injured during the agitation against Thoothukudi Sterlite Copper Smelter Plant in 2018. Based on the Government order, the families of the victims had urged the Government that 16 persons recommended for the post of Village Assistant be given posts as junior assistants, based on their qualifications, and one person as jeep driver.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister favourably considered their demands and gave appointment orders as Junior Assistants in the Revenue Department and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Departments at a function in the Madurai Collectorate on 21.05.2021.

The Commission led by Justice Tmt. Aruna Jagadeesan (Retd.), which probed the Thoothukudi Police firing, submitted its interim report to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 14.05.2021. The Government will take necessary steps on the recommendations of the commission report.

Hon'ble Chief Minister sanctions increased monthly pension for 1,000 indigent artistes

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin presented at the Secretariat on 08.06.2021, sanctioning orders for monthly pension to 11 artistes as a token of the distribution of such orders to 1,000 artistes under the monthly pension scheme for indigent artistes.

The scheme for monthly pension to indigent artistes is implemented through the Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram, functioning under the Department of Art and Culture. The 1,000 beneficiaries of the present scheme are those selected for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 at the rate of 500 artistes in each year.

The Government has also issued orders, increasing the monthly pension to indigent artistes from Rs.2,000 to Rs.3,000. Totally 6,600 aged classical and village artistes will benefit in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Chief Minister becomes first CM in India to enter Corona ward to enquire about patients

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** visited Corona patients at the Coimbatore Government Medical College/ESI Hospital complex on 30.05.2021 and reviewed the treatment given to them *(English Translation)*.

For the last few days, the Corona infection that was spiking in Tamil Nadu, is gradually declining due to the steps taken on a war footing by Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin such as hiking the number of tests conducted in rural and urban areas, identifying the affected persons quickly, placing them in isolation and treating them and hastening the inoculation drive.

On 20.05.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a field inspection connected with Corona virus prevention works in Coimbatore District and declared open for speedily isolating and treating the Corona-affected persons, bed facilities for 820 persons at Codissia complex and a special treatment centre with 360 beds at Kumaraguru Technology College. On the advice of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, 13 new Corona special treatment centres with 3,105 beds, were set up.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Chief Minister made a field inspection at Coimbatore Government Medical College/ESI hospital complex on 30.05.2021. He enquired about the treatment given to the Corona affected persons, available medical infrastructure, the daily rate of usage of oxygen, special treatment provided and the food supplied to patients. This hospital is functioning with 1,273 beds - 382 ordinary beds, 678 with oxygen facility and 213 ICU.

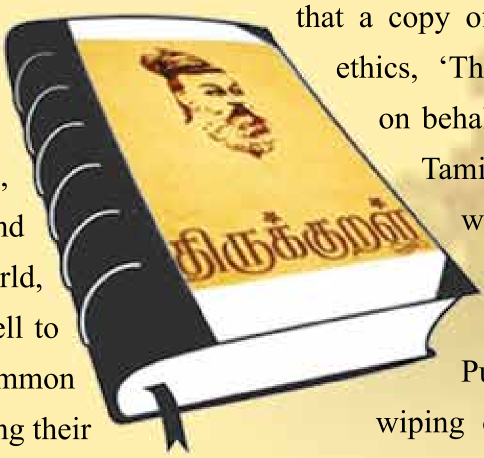
Later, he visited the Corona ward, wearing the PPE kit, met the patients, enquired about their welfare and their needs. He also visited the ICU ward and enquired with the doctors about the condition of the patients and the treatment given to them. This is the first ever visit by any Chief Minister in India to a Corona ward in a hospital to meet patients and enquire about their welfare.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated an ambulance service with 50 cars for transporting Corona-affected persons to hospitals.

Moved by children contributing their savings, Hon'ble Chief Minister gifts them Thirukkural Book

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin**, moved by the munificence of children in giving their savings to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund *(English Translation)*.

I appealed for liberal donations to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund from all sections of people for retrieving Tamil Nadu from the impact of the Corona pandemic. You are aware that responding to the appeal, big industrialists, micro small and medium entrepreneurs, the film world, all sections of people from the well to do in the society to the poor, common and marginalized people are offering their mite with a cheerful attitude and with great enthusiasm to defeat this pandemic at any cost.



I was moved to see children coming forward to donate their savings, accumulated over a time to realize their little dreams and by the great compassion that lies behind their generosity. Hence, I wish to affectionately inform you that a copy of the universal book of ethics, 'Thirukkural' will be sent on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu to all the children who come forward to donate their savings to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund for wiping out the sorrows of the Corona pandemic. In consonance with the tenet of Ayyan Thiruvalluvar's Thirukkural, I make this announcement to sow the seeds of charity and humanism in the young hearts. Let charity flourish in the land of Mother Tamil!

Hon'ble Chief Minister releases Mettur water, motivates farmers to aim for maximum yield

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin released water from Mettur dam on 12.06.2021 for Cauvery delta farmers to commence Kuruvai cultivation.

For Kuruvai cultivation in Cauvery delta areas, 125 tmc ft. of water is needed for irrigation from June 12 to September 15. Mettur dam meets 99.74 tmc ft. of water for this and the balance of 25.26 tmc ft. water is made good through rain and groundwater.

On June 12, three thousand cubic feet of water was released from Mettur dam for cultivation and in the coming months, it will be released as per needs.

For raising samba and thaladi crops in 12,10,000 acres, 205.60 tmc ft. of water is required for irrigation from September 15 to January 28. Release from Mettur dam for this, will be 108.50 tmc ft. of water and the balance of 97.10 tmc ft. of water is met with monsoon rain and groundwater.

During the period of water release from the Mettur dam for Cauvery delta irrigation and drinking water purposes, 250 MW of electricity is generated through the Dam Power House (50 MW) and the Tunnel Hydro Power station (200 MW). In addition, down below the dam, 210 MW of electricity is generated through 7 barrage hydro power stations at the rate of 30 MW from each station. The volume of water release will fluctuate depending on the north east monsoon and the felt needs.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister requested the Cauvery delta farmers to be thrifty in water usage, to go by turns in water sharing as per the prevailing condition, cooperate with the officials of Water Resources Department and get maximum yield in minimum acreage by getting the advice of the officials of the Department of agriculture and farmers welfare and using technology including system of rice intensification.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** paid floral tributes at the Memorial of the **Muthamizh Arignar Dr. Kalaignar**, at the Marina Beach, Chennai on the occasion of the 97th birth anniversary of Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar on 03.06.2021.

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** released waters from the Mettur Dam for Kuruvai cultivation by the farmers in the Delta region and sprinkled flowers on the water, on 12.06.2021.

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